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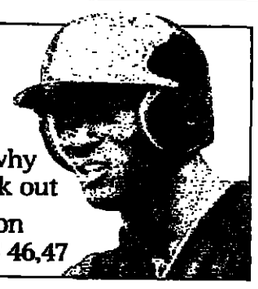
No. 65,842 THURSDAY MARCH 20 1997



FLASHY WRAPPING

Iain R. Webb peels away the Paris Fashion Week glamour

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BEST FOR BOOKS

Roger Bannister on why Michael Jordan struck out

PLUS: Norman Stone on Albert Speer. PAGES 46,47



STONE AGE MILLIONAIRES

Oilwells turn the Huli Wig Men into tycoons

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APPOINTMENTS
36-PAGE DOUBLE SECTION

Labour tries to extend session

Blair attacks sleaze report 'suppression'

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR last night led an unprecedented move to prevent Parliament rising for the general election tomorrow, in an attempt to force publication of the report on the cash-for-questions affair.

Mr Blair was joined by Paddy Ashdown, other minority leaders and the entire Shadow Cabinet in signing motions calling for the present session to be extended amid claims that the Government had deliberately timed the prorogation to delay publication the report until after the election.

The report into allegations of sleaze against MPs, including the former ministers Neil Hamilton and Tim Smith, will be ready next week. But Sir Gordon Downey, the Commissioner for Standards, cannot present it to MPs when Parliament is not sitting.

Even the Queen was embroiled in the dispute when it was disclosed that she had already signed the papers providing for the prorogation tomorrow, so the date could not be changed. But Labour contested that assertion and the Government later accepted that the Queen could be asked to vary the timing.

It was nevertheless clear that the Government had no intention of giving way and as ministers refused demands for the session to be extended, the Speaker told MPs that it was "constitutionally simply not possible" for the Committee on Standards and Privileges to continue its work after the prorogation.

The Conservatives were furious, claiming that the row had been deliberately staged to take the gloss of yesterday's sharp fall in unemployment. Ministers described as slanderous the suggestion that the election timing had anything to do with Sir Gordon's report, and Dr Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, accused Labour of playing dirty politics.

He said: "Mr Blair and Mr Brown look for a smear, look for a diversion to stop the people of Britain focusing on the good news. You are now seeing the first example of the Labour Party playing dirty politics."

A senior government source said that the Opposition was assuming that the report would be publishable immediately after Sir Gordon handed it to the committee. But that was unlikely to be the case; the committee could well wish to interview key witnesses again. The source said: "This report goes back over all the Al-Fayed-Rowland feud over 20 years. How do you unravel that in a day?"

Lords reform, page 11
Election 97, pages 12, 13
William Rees-Mogg, page 24
Leading article and Letters, page 25
Pennington, page 31
Graham Searjeant, page 33

Ex-minister admits to £18,000 payment

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER minister who resigned after being paid to ask parliamentary questions for Mohammed Al Fayed has admitted that he received three times as much money as had been previously been thought.

Tim Smith, a former Conservative Party treasurer, has told a Commons investigation that he accepted £18,000 from the Harrods owner. Although no figure had been confirmed in the past, it was assumed that Mr Smith had received fees totalling £6,000.

The senior Tory backbencher Sir Michael Grylls has also admitted that he received more payments from the lobbyist Ian Greer than he at first acknowledged, and he will be criticised for misleading Parliament in Sir Gordon Downey's report on the affair.

Sir Michael, the MP for Surrey North West, told the now defunct Privileges committee's investigation into lobbying in April 1990, that he had received three payments from Mr Greer for introducing new business.

But both Sir Michael and Mr Greer later told Sir Gordon's confidential investiga-

Continued on page 2, col 5



TONY FISHER / DAILY STAR

Cherie Blair and Norma Major "very deep in conversation" at the *Daily Star* Gold Awards at the Savoy Hotel in London yesterday

Leading ladies rise above politics

BY CAROL MIDGLEY

POLITICAL rivalry was off the menu yesterday as Norma Major and Cherie Blair met for lunch. The general election was ignored while the two joined forces to present awards for bravery.

As their husbands hit the campaign trail, the wives shook hands, posed for photographs and chatted like old friends at the Savoy Hotel in London, where they were joined at their table by Diana, Princess of Wales. It was only the third time that Mrs Major and Mrs Blair had met, but onlookers said they were very deep in conversation. "Their greeting was genuinely warm and they actually made a good double act," said one guest.

Their outfits, too, did not clash. Mrs Major wore a fuchsia-pink suit with knee-length skirt while Mrs Blair wore a black trouser-suit and black silk ruffled blouse to the *Daily Star* Gold Awards. The Princess wore a pastel-pink jacket and above-the-knee skirt, and virtually ignored the bank of photographers outside the hotel.

There was a tense moment when a photographer asked Mrs Blair if she would pose for a picture with Mrs Major. She readily agreed but Mrs Major initially appeared uncertain. They had a private chat and the photo opportunity was granted.

The Prime Minister's wife was first to present six Gold Stars, rationing her kisses to one peck on the cheek for Jane Winslow, 12, from Grimsby, who sold her toys to raise money for her grandfather's cancer treatment.

Mrs Blair, said observers, hugged the winners and seemed tearful as she gave awards to two from Dunblane, as well as to Lisa Potts, the nurse who risked her life to shield children from a machete-wielding man.

The Princess gave an award to Chris Moon, 33, who lost his right leg and hand clearing mines in Mozambique. He has since run three marathons to raise money to ban landmines.



Unemployment falls again

Unemployment is at its lowest level since the beginning of the 1990s. In February, seasonally-adjusted unemployment fell by 68,200 to 1,746,300, the twelfth consecutive monthly fall ..... Page 29

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Architecture prize for self-taught man

BY MARCUS BINNEY

TADAO ANDO, an unqualified and entirely self-taught Japanese designer who cannot call himself an architect in Britain, has won the country's most prestigious prize for architecture.

In a move that will bring hope to thousands of similar designers and technicians forbidden to describe themselves as architects, the Royal Institute of British Architects has awarded Mr Ando its 1997 Royal Gold Medal.

With Sir Norman Foster, Mr Ando counts as one of world architecture's top stars. Although he has never taken any architectural exams, he has scooped all of the world's top awards, including the £155,000 Carlsberg prize, the American Pritzker Prize, and the even more valuable Japanese Premium Imperiale.

The RIBA medal brings no money, but it is the oldest of the world's leading architecture awards. First presented to Charles Robert Cockerell, architect of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, in 1848, it has since been won by top international architects, including Le Corbusier and Frank Lloyd Wright.

Mr Ando was made an honorary fellow of RIBA in 1993 and has also won the gold medal of architecture in France, and Finland's Alvar Aalto award. He has been a visiting professor at Columbia, Harvard and Yale universities. The RIBA citation says: "His buildings respect surroundings if they are beautiful and protect the observer if they are ugly. An Ando building, is instantly recognisable, yet eminently individual."

Mr Ando's most famous and admired buildings are his churches, notably the Chapel on the Water at Tomamu and the Church of the Light in Osaka. The beauty of his buildings lies in geometrical perfection, the inspired use of light, and superb finishes.

Today the world beats a path to his door in Osaka, where he works with a team of 20 assistants, all qualified. He is a master of presentation, producing superb models and bold freehand drawings.

A RIBA spokesman said yesterday: "If Mr Ando were to win a competition in Britain, he could build the building but not call himself its architect."



Ando: international star

De Kooning dies in his studio

Willem de Kooning, a dominant figure in the abstract expressionist art movement, died in his New York studio. He was 92.

The Dutch-born painter, whose works included the black and white *Night Square* and the colourful *Woman*, influenced the New York School that came to prominence after the War.

Doctor jailed for indecent assault

A doctor has been jailed for three months after putting his hand up a nurse's skirt. Philip Sugarman, 32, of West Didsbury, Manchester, who was engaged to be married, indecently assaulted the woman as she leaned over at the Royal Oldham Hospital, Manchester ..... Page 3

Italian crisis

Italy declared a state of emergency until June 30 to cope with the influx of more than 10,000 refugees from Albania ..... Page 15

Nursery rethink

A senior Tory called for a rethink of the Government's nursery voucher scheme to save parents and schools from bureaucracy ..... Page 6

Call of the Bar

The 120 places on the new Bar vocational course being run by the College of Law in September are being chased by 1,800 students ..... Page 9

Briton tells of SAS Albania rescue

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A BRITISH aid worker described yesterday how he was rescued by the SAS from rebel-held southern Albania and flown out to safety in an RAF Chinook helicopter.

Richard Welch, working for the Bedworth Christian Centre in Warwickshire, had been trapped in the village of Borsh, near Sarande, since March 1 after people looted an arms depot. He and another Briton contacted the British Embassy in Tirana to let officials know they were desperate to be rescued.

Soldiers from the SAS Regiment flew out to Albania last week to protect the embassy and its ambassador, Andrew Tesoriere. They arrived with RAF Chinooks in case they had to help stranded Britons.

The 39-year-old aid worker from Dudley, West Midlands, was told to meet the SAS team. He said yesterday: "I contacted another Briton in a nearby village and we both met up at the rendezvous point. Two Land Rovers were there and they were being driven by SAS soldiers in plain clothes. We drove five miles to the coast through roadblocks, without any trouble, and suddenly two helicopters came down."

About 25 SAS men in full combat gear came out and spread around the ground "like ants, taking up battle positions. The soldiers were very self-effacing and very modest. But they thanked me because they were glad to see some action and said they had enjoyed coming to get me."

The two Britons were flown to Tirana and then across to Bari in Italy, before returning to England.

Mr Welch said that when the arms depot was looted Borsh was "suddenly filled with anti-tank missiles, guns, rifles and machineguns. When I left, people from outside were trying to buy a machinegun for $200," he said.

Bedworth Christian Centre in Warwickshire sent 100 young people to Albania last year to help to renovate a school and a hospital. Mr Welch said he hoped to return.

The Foreign Office confirmed that two Britons and an American had been rescued by British soldiers in RAF helicopters. It added that all the Britons who wanted to leave had now been rescued.



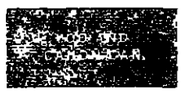
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Missing peer tracked down to secret Westminster lair

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Brush aside the news of a general election. Yesterday this sketch-writer stumbled over a much bigger story. We may have sighted Lord Lucan.

I had looked in on the Upper Chamber to watch an oft-forgotten legislature whose session also approaches its close. The Lords' Chamber was full, the atmosphere boisterous.

Election fever had penetrated even to this mild and rational place. As I entered, their Lordships were mooing angrily at each other about unemployment, the minimum wage and the social chapter.

Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, a Trade and Industry Minister, was fielding questions in a knockabout mood more redolent of the Commons than the Lords. A Tory peer, the Viscount of Oxfuird, had asked what can only be described as poodling question, though from a very noble poodle. Hyundai were creating 2,000 jobs in Dunfermline, he said. What prospect of such investment under the job-destroying policies of the party opposite?

"My Noble Friend is absolutely right!" cooed Lord Fraser. Readers unfamiliar with the drawing-room ambience of the Other Place may not realise just how weird this sort of exchange sounds, in the Lords.

Other peers rose. Tory Lords threw the windfall tax, Siemens and Scottish prosperity at the Opposition. Labour and Liberal Democrat Lords retaliated with MORI polls and French inward investment figures. Lord Beloff (a retired academic) told Labour's Lord Peston (another retired academic) that he hoped he would never go back to teaching economics, as he did not understand it. Lord Fraser told Lord Peston he hoped he *did* return to teaching — after his party had lost the election. Lord Fraser read out figures for the latest fall in unemployment, and all the Tory Lords and Ladies shouted "Hurrah!"

And we moved to a defence question.

Readers may remember that a man described as the Earl Attlee, grandson of the former Labour Prime Minister, has recently joined the Conservative Party. Yesterday he made his first contribution from the government benches in the Lords. What, we wondered, was he bursting to say? Might we be about to hear what had pushed him to this rebellion?

There was a hush as he rose. Lord Attlee had a pale, waxy complexion, a moustache, dark hair (receding) and a long nose. He spoke in a deadpan voice. And now a new speculation gripped me.

Was this Lord Lucan?

One had, after all, never heard of an "Earl Attlee" before a fortnight ago. He seemed suddenly to have appeared.

From where? From hiding? Photographs of Lord Lucan suggest a lower brow, but these were taken some years ago: the hair will have receded since then. It should be grey by now, but he may be dyeing it.

His question was for the Earl Howe, a Defence Minister. One recalled his alleged grandfather's record. Clement Attlee was passionate for rearmament in the 30s, and secretly authorised Britain's independent nuclear deterrent in the 1940s. Though the subject being discussed was food supplies to the Armed Forces, an ingenious peer can always nudge debate in the direction he desires. Perhaps his grandson (if this *was* his grandson) sought modern reassurance on some of the great issues which had dominated his grandfather's career?

He spoke. "My own TA unit," he told their lordships, "frequently received supplies of beer that had very little shelf-life left. It is very difficult to drink large quantities of beer in a short space of time." Lord Attlee sat down. Peers gulped.

And that was it.

Praise for CSA after 'unhappy birth'

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE Child Support Agency has substantially improved its performance since its "difficult and unhappy birth", but still has a big backlog of cases to deal with, MPs said yesterday.

The role of the CSA is to take lone parents, predominantly mothers, off benefit by making absent parents pay maintenance for their offspring. But figures in a report by the Social Security Select Committee showed that only about a third of lone parents on income support and family credit had received an assessment.

Even this somewhat "flattered" the agency, said the MPs. The total of lone parents on benefit — over 1.46 million in May 1996 — was a "snapshot" total, whereas the figure for the CSA caseload at the same point — 485,000 — was a "cumulative" total, including cases where absent parents were themselves getting benefit and were therefore readily accessible to the agency.

The report said the gap was partly explained by the number of cases cleared without assessment, including those where the CSA accepted lone parents' claims that they did not want to get involved because they feared retribution from a violent ex-partner.

But by the end of December last year, said the MPs, the number of maintenance applications on hand was 441,784, "which includes a considerable backlog compared to an estimated 200,000 — 250,000 applications on hand that the agency would expect to have when at a 'steady state'".

The MPs praised the agency for a "significant improvement" in performance since the agency started work in 1993. The committee has previously described its administrative performance in its first 18 months as "dire", and the agency apologised to its clients for its shortcomings. "Whereas the agency was heading for disaster in 1993-94, there is now no danger that this could occur," the report said.

Major negotiates showdown debate with BBC and ITV

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A TELEVISION debate between John Major and Tony Blair seemed inevitable last night as the Prime Minister instructed his party chairman to start formal negotiations with both the BBC and ITV.

Senior Tory party sources unveiled details of the proposals from both TV channels but said that at present it favoured the ITV plans, as they were less "rigid" than those put forward by the BBC. Michael Dobbs, former vice-chairman of the Tory party, will be leading the debate team.

Neither plan involves a three-way debate with Paddy Ashdown, although the Liberal Democrat leader will be allocated a slot during a 90-minute programme in both proposals. Under the BBC plan, Mr Major and Mr Blair would be involved in a 54-minute debate, chaired by David Dimbleby. The two leaders would be asked six questions each and be allowed two bites at the reply, following up each other's comments, for nine minutes. Mr Ashdown would then be interviewed for 16 minutes and there would be statements from all three leaders at the end. Under the ITV plan, all three leaders would make short opening statements and each leader would be asked one question. Then the Prime Minister would debate with Mr Blair for about 25 minutes, with Jonathan Dimbleby chairing.

Mr Ashdown would then face questioning on his own, before another 30 minutes when Mr Blair and Mr Major would be cross-questioned by Sue Lawley and Michael Brunson.

A senior Tory source said that both proposals were being seriously considered but that they were concerned about the "rigidity" of the BBC proposals. "The Prime Minister does not like the stopwatch approach, of nine minutes for each question, which will give Tony Blair the opportunity to trot out his soundbites, with no proper time for debate."

Both proposals include an audience but neither would be allowed to participate. The source said that Mr Major would like two debates and it was possible that one could be on BBC and the other on ITV.

☐ The televised debate between the three main party leaders should be produced jointly by the BBC, ITV and the satellite station Sky News, and screened simultaneously on all three channels, a senior Sky executive said yesterday (Alexandra Frean writes).

Nick Pollard, head of Sky News, has invited Tony Hall, chief executive of BBC News, and Marion Bowman, deputy controller of factual programmes at ITV, to discuss the proposal. He said that the party leaders were far more likely to agree to a debate if only one format was proposed and if they were not required to chose between rival bids.

"Our view is that the debate should be done in the American way, with one output made available to all broadcasters." He said one possible format would be to have a panel of interviewers, one from each of the three broadcasters, and an independent chairman.

Election 97, pages 11, 12 and 13

Stirring speech lifts backbench spirits

BY JILL SHERMAN

JOHN MAJOR told Tory MPs yesterday that more than a third of voters had not decided who to back in the election, and it was "our job to bring those voters back home".

In a rousing end-of-term address to the backbench 1922 Committee, Mr Major emphasised that the Conservatives could still win. Several Cabinet ministers attended the meeting.He pointed to the good economic indicators this week and said that Labour's raising Sir Gordon Downey's unpublished report on the cash-for-questions affair had been a "stunt".

A Labour government would ruin the economic achievements that the Tories had built up since 1979, he said. The Tory policies which had been opposed by Labour over the past 18 years now appeared to be acceptable to them, he said.

Tory MPs said afterwards that Mr Major's speech had been crucial in raising morale after the heavy defeat by Labour in the Wirral South by-election last month. "That was the low-point of the last year, and our spirits have crept a little higher tonight."

MPs said that Mr Major's comment about the proportion of undecided voters had in particular raised morale. Although several conceded that the Tories are a substantial way behind Labour in the opinion polls, one said: "The Prime Minister is genuinely confident. Even if others don't have the same optimism, they feel much better tonight."

The Prime Minister urged MPs to focus on the differences between the Tories and Labour, concentrating on the proposed windfall tax, the social chapter and Labour's opposition to expanding selection in schools. He touched briefly on Europe, on which the Tories have in effect agreed an election truce.

CHRIS HARRIS



Neil Hamilton in London yesterday

Al Fayed payment

Continued from page 1

tion that the true number of fees was at least six. The payments totalled almost £30,000.

Sir Michael, who is standing down at the election, said: "It is true I gave the wrong information to the select committee. But I based the evidence on incorrect information I had received."

The discrepancy over payments to Sir Michael was one of the reasons for the collapse of the libel case brought by Mr Greer and the former Trade Minister Neil Hamilton against *The Guardian*.

But it is the leak of Mr Smith's evidence that will most embarrass the Conservatives. He won plaudits from colleagues when he resigned on the day the cash-for-questions allegations were published in October 1994. John Major, who had been told about the allegations three weeks earlier, praised him for his "clear and full explanation".

Mr Smith received his payments between 1986 and 1989, when he asked 17 questions for Mr Al-Fayed in the Commons. He argued that he had raised "legitimate concerns".

Britain agrees to label its beef

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN agreed to compulsory labelling for beef exported to other European Union countries yesterday, despite fears that this could lead to an indefinite Continental boycott of the British product.

The climbdown came a year after the Government precipitated a ban on British beef by disclosing that a new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), a fatal brain condition, was probably caused by eating beef infected with BSE. The ban, which halted beef exports worth more than £500 million a year, is still in force. Even exports of by-products such as tallow and gelatine remain blocked.

In an unexpected move on the third day of talks between European Union farm ministers in Brussels, the Government withdrew its opposition to the labelling scheme which it had earlier said violated the single market's free-trade rules. Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, was summoned home from the meeting on a three-line whip on Monday night, leaving Britain represented only by officials when the labelling decision was taken. "By introducing a labelling system European consumers will know exactly what products they are dealing with and where they are from", said Jozias Van Aartsen, the Dutch farm minister and the current president of the Council of Ministers.

The labelling scheme is intended to restore consumer confidence in beef. Sales have been worse hit in many Continental countries than in Britain, where consumption is now close to where it was before the Government's announcement on CJD.

The labelling scheme will be optional for meat sold on a member state's home market, but compulsory from the start of the year 2000 for meat exported to other countries in the EU if those countries have adopted the labelling plan.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bloody Sunday law threat

The Irish Government is considering legal action against Britain in the European courts if the investigation into the Bloody Sunday shootings is not reopened. Dick Spring, the Irish Deputy Prime Minister, said that a new investigation was needed to establish how the original report on the killing of 13 people by paratroopers in 1972, which exonerated the soldiers, had "got the facts so wrong". The Irish Government is compiling a dossier on the shootings to be sent to London, and sources said that legal action might be taken if the inquiry was not reopened.

Robinson backed

The Irish Government has formally nominated President Robinson for the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The decision, made at a cabinet meeting yesterday, will be followed by intensive lobbying by the Irish Prime Minister, Government and diplomats at the UN in Geneva and New York.

Gun man wins

Police have lost a legal fight to stop a Norfolk man from holding a gun licence. They claimed Robert Edwards, 44, was unfit to handle weapons because of a propensity to violence but a High Court judge disagreed. Police alleged that Mr Edwards beat the woman he lived with and had three convictions, two for using violence.

Crew blameless

An official investigation into the sailing tragedy last month in which two police officers and a teenager died has cleared the crew of blame. The 35ft yacht *Fairview Two* was on charter to the Metropolitan Police Sailing Club and returning to base in Hamble, Hampshire. It was struck by a freak wave, demasted and overturned.

Naafi relaunch

Britain's 200 Naafi stores are to be relaunched as Spar shops in all but name this summer, in an attempt to pull the troubled Navy, Army and Air Force retailer back into profit. Naafi will pay Spar, which looks after 2,500 independent grocery stores, an undisclosed sum to train managers, supply groceries and lend its brand name.

Cat killer guilty

A man who drop-kicked a neighbouring family's cat over a garden fence, killing it, was ordered to pay £270 compensation by magistrates in Leicester. Norman Inchley, 50, who was involved in a long-running feud, denied cruelty, saying he loved animals, but was convicted after another neighbour told of seeing the incident.

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Weary Carey 'will be ready to hand over in five years'

BY RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, finds his job "very wearying" and will be ready to hand over to someone else in five years' time, he has disclosed.

Dr Carey, 61, who has recently returned to work after a six-week sabbatical, says there are times when he gets "very tired", but he perseveres, in spite of criticism from some quarters, because he believes God has called him to the role.

In a television documentary to be broadcast next month he says: "I think it is a very wearying job. You pour yourself into it and it is not only the physical side of this — because there is a physical demand on you — but it is also spiritually and emotionally demanding because you are being hit from many angles.

"From a Christian point of view obviously there is a God-givenness about this. I have to say that God has chosen me to do this." Failure to believe that could lead to despair, he says. "There are times when I get very tired. I am feeling fine, but there is no doubt about it that in five years' time, it will be ready, I will be ready, to hand over to somebody else.

Dr Carey, like all freehold clergy, is entitled to remain in office until he is 70 Because he became Archbishop at the exceptionally young age of 55, retirement at 65 would not be seen as early retirement.

A spokeswoman was last night quick to counter any suggestion that a decision had already been made to go at 65. She said: "The Archbishop was anticipating how he might feel and this should not be taken in any way as an actual decision. It is far too soon for that. It will obviously depend on how he feels in the future."

The Archbishop is likely to make a final decision nearer to his 65th birthday, after consulting friends and colleagues throughout the Anglican Communion. There is little doubt that Dr Carey, considered an episcopal version of a workaholic by those close to him, would stay on if he felt called to do so, no matter how exhausted he had become.

Dr Carey, filmed by Meridian Broadcasting during a visit to South Africa to mark the retirement of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, also discloses a passion for football, and reveals his sadness that his ministry does not always receive the support in Britain that it does on his frequent trips overseas.

"I do not think any point of my ministry has every been wholeheartedly 100 per cent backed," he says. "But with God all things are possible and I have seen over the last five years wonderful things happening, signs of life, signs of growth."

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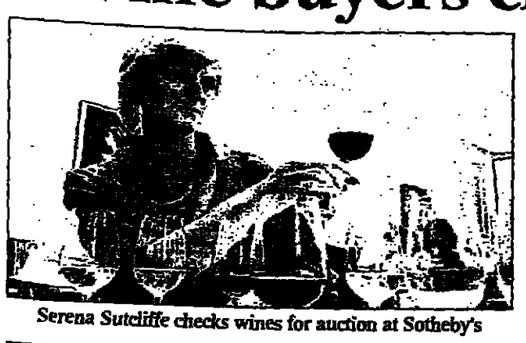
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Wine buyers check wallets as Bordeaux predicts vintage year


Serena Sutcliffe checks wines for auction at Sotheby's

By Robin Young

A LARGE contingent of the British wine trade will descend on Bordeaux next week, wondering whether United Kingdom customers can afford to buy any 1996 fine clarets.

The French, hopeful that prices already at record levels may rise yet higher, have postponed the annual release of their most valuable wines. Though they will be available for tasting in Bordeaux from next week, the prices may not be declared for at least another two or three weeks.

The word in the trade is that 1996 is an even better year for claret than 1995, a vintage whose best wines doubled in value within months of being released onto the market at this time last year.

The 1996 wines, few of which even wine merchants have yet been able to taste, will not be ready to leave cellars in Bordeaux for another two years, seem to have been saved from the effects of a relatively cold, wet summer by a warm, dry September.

Respected château owners are optimistic. Anthony Barton, owner of Châteaux Léoville-Barton and Langoa-Barton, has said that 1996 could prove the best vintage of the decade. Other authorities have suggested that for some châteaux 1996 may even prove the best year since the classic 1982.

Prices for good vintage claret shot up by an average of 60 per cent last year, and the continuing excitement in the market was evidenced at an auction at Sotheby's in London yesterday, with prices continuing an upward trend which is putting more and more wines beyond ordinary drinkers' reach. Clarets of popular châteaux that were still under £30 a bottle retail a few years ago now cost over £50 even before they are bottled and shipped.

Serena Sutcliffe, the Master of Wine who is head of Sotheby's International Wine Department, said after a sale in which 98 per cent by value of the wines successfully sold: "This was an outstanding result. Top wines from the exceptional vintages of the 1980s are simply racing out of the saleroom."

Stephen Mould, the auctioneer who took the sale, said afterwards: "There is very strong demand from the Far East, but some of the highest priced lots still went to UK buyers. Prices for good vintage claret generally continued upwards, so that first class growths of the 1982 vintage which were £3,600 a case at the end of last year, were fetching £4,200 at this sale."

Freddy Price, a London merchant whose trade tasting earlier this week included some of the first cask samples of 1996 claret seen in London, said yesterday: "The quality seemed very high indeed, but until I have tasted more wines it is too early to judge the overall quality of the vintage. I am going to Bordeaux on Friday and I expect about half the British wine trade to be there. This is certainly going to be a year for *en primeur* sales, when customers buy wines as soon as they are released, even before they are bottled."

Doctor jailed for groping nurse in hospital store

By Emma Wilkins

A DOCTOR has been jailed for three months and faces being struck off the Medical Register after putting his hand up a nurse's skirt.

Philip Sugarman, 32, who said he often engaged in sexual banter with colleagues to relieve stress, indecently assaulted the woman as she leant over a trolley at the Royal Oldham Hospital.

The 34-year-old nurse, who cannot be named, was in tears for much of the three-day hearing at Manchester Crown Court and left yesterday supported by her friends and relatives.

The court was told that Sugarman, a registrar, accepted that his banter was politically incorrect, but believed that it helped to relieve tension in the busy casualty unit.

A jury of nine men and three women convicted Sugarman, of West Didsbury, Manchester, by an 11 to one majority after deliberating for three hours and ten minutes.

The court was told that he followed his victim into a storeroom, put his hand up her skirt and said: "I want to see if you wear knickers for work." He backed off when she shouted and swore at him.

The woman later complained to police and Sugarman was arrested. The doctor did not deny the incident but claimed that sexual banter with the woman had led him to believe she would consent. The nurse denied that she had engaged in sexual banter with him.

The assault came a few weeks after Sugarman had joined the hospital. He was engaged to be married to a nurse at the time.

Clement Goldstone, QC, told the court in mitigation that his client's career could be ruined: "This is a case that will have serious, if not tragic, consequences for the defendant in the context of his career. I cannot seek to criticise the Crown Prosecution Service for having brought this case before the criminal courts, but it is difficult to refrain from expressing the view that this matter could have remained an internal disciplinary matter."

Judge Hammond disagreed, saying that trust was vital between colleagues. "I don't think it was a matter that could be overlooked: people have to work with each other and they have to trust each other."


Sugarman: lawyer said career could be ruined

Mr Goldstone said that Sugarman was ashamed of himself and realised that it had been an unpleasant experience for his victim. The nurse, who has a child, was off work for two months after the incident in February last year and had received counselling.

The judge, who said the offence fell towards the lower end of the scale, emphasised that female hospital staff were entitled not to be abused while at work. He told Sugarman: "Your behaviour was intolerable and unforgiveable. Women who work in hospitals have to be certain that they are not going to be grabbed from behind and have a hand pushed up their skirt."

After the hearing, Sugarman's lawyers said that his family had been shocked by the sentence and that there would be an appeal. Sugarman has still to face an internal inquiry.

The Professional Conduct Committee of the General Medical Council examines the cases of all practitioners who receive jail sentences. The committee has the power to strike doctors off the Medical Register or to recommend that they face restrictions on practising.


New bunch: the once prevalent floral image is relegated to a few stylised blooms

Laura Ashley puts Bo Peep out to pasture

By Grace Bradberry, Style Editor

LAURA ASHLEY is reinventing its image, exchanging the twee sprigs that made it famous for outsized roses, or dropping the floral theme completely. An advertising campaign launched in America carries the slogan: "Laura Ashley — say it without flowers."

The second line reinforces the change of image: "If you thought you knew Laura Ashley, think again." The campaign, devised by Ann Iverson, its American chief executive, marks the end of an era. Tens of thousands of women have a sprig-patterned skirt, smocked pinafore or 1980s taffeta ballgown lurking in their wardrobes.

Ms Iverson, who moved to Laura Ashley from Mothercare in 1995, inherited a company that was struggling to reinvent itself. Research showed that potential customers regarded the label as frumpy, outdated and expensive and it suffered heavy losses in the early 1990s.

In January, Ms Iverson appointed a new head of design, Basha Cohen, with a brief to produce modern classics. The spring and summer collection is the first produced by Ms Cohen and jettisons the leg-of-mutton sleeves and lace collars.

The Laura Ashley collection does include some flowers, but they are stylised white silhouettes on a black dress or huge roses. A company spokeswoman said: "There are many different ways to use flowers — it doesn't have to be early Eighties."

The policy is a tightrope: most women still connect Laura Ashley with its Arcadian image. So influential was the 1975 "milkmaid" dress that it is included alongside Vivienne Westwood and Mary Quant designs in the Cutting Edge exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

In the Eighties, Laura Ashley was the label that many teenage girls craved. Kate Reardon, fashion editor of *Tatler*, said: "At 15, my biggest dream was to have a strapless Laura Ashley evening dress to wear to the Hurlingham Club disco.

"But the fact that they're providing sleek clothes that women can wear to the office without looking like Little Bo Peep is to be applauded."


Back petalling: the old milkmaid look

Firefighters made to pay for sexual bullying

By A Staff Reporter

SIX firemen have been punished for sexually harassing a woman colleague days after their brigade had to pay a record £200,000 compensation to her colleague for sexual harassment.

The Hereford and Worcester force said yesterday that it had eradicated sexual bullying after one fireman was forced to resign and five others fined for "gross and foul" behaviour to Becky Walker.

Earlier this week Tania Clayton, 31, was awarded £200,000 after suffering three years of intimidation, insults and cruelty.

An internal investigation by the force has disciplined six firefighters after what a Fire Brigade Union spokesman said was "gross and foul acts of sexual harassment, including physical acts" against Miss Walker, who was off work suffering from stress.

Hereford and Worcester County Council said its fire service had eradicated such behaviour. "We now have a new administration and new fire officer and it is a measure of the confidence in them that Miss Walker felt able to complain about her colleagues' behaviour."

Woman wins first judgment against stage hypnotist

By Adam Fresco

A WOMAN has won the first judgment against a stage hypnotist in a claim for psychological damage during his show. Lynn Howarth, 36, a trainee midwife, says that she became a different person after taking part in a stage act that she had booked for a social evening. She tried to commit suicide twice and shouted abuse at her children.

Mrs Howarth is claiming thousands of pounds against the hypnotist for loss of earnings for both her and her husband, who had to give up work to look after her and their seven children. At Blackburn County Court a judgment was entered in default because the hypnotist failed to file a defence.

Mrs Howarth was hypnotised for two hours during the show at a social club near her home in Lancashire. She was made to dance like Madonna and shivered when made to believe she was freezing cold. During the act in February 1994 she was told she would wake up when she touched the hand of the hypnotist and would feel a 10,000 volt electric shock. She said yesterday: "Inside my head I was begging to be allowed to go back to my table. But he had me totally under his control and I couldn't make a sound that he didn't order me to make. The humiliation was awful. I wandered back to out table like a zombie." Although her husband complained, he was told by the hypnotist that his wife was just tired. But by the time she got home she was shivering with cold and had a headache. She remained feeling ill for four days before her doctor told her that she was suffering a form of trauma. She remained ill for six months.

During that time she became depressed and was prescribed Prozac. She started shouting at the children and screaming abuse at them. "Brian had to come home from work and do all the cooking and housework. I couldn't bear to cuddle the children let alone let Brian touch me. It is a mircale our marriage survived."

Seven months after being hypnotised she tried to commit suicide by driving her car at high speed towards a tree. At the last minute she thought of her family and swerved away. A few of weeks later she did the same thing.

'Baroness' accused of £16 trillion fraud

By Damian Whitworth

A WOMAN who allegedly posed as a baroness in an attempt to pull off a £16 trillion (£16 million million) fraud was found out when she claimed to possess unrealistic quantities of precious metals.

Financial staff grew suspicious when she claimed to have access to more precious metals than had been produced in the world over the past 150 years, Southwark Crown Court was told yesterday. The jury was told that Elda Beguinua, 52, who styled herself Baroness Avilla, attempted to secure £16 trillion in credit using false certificates that purported to give her access to precious metals worth £600 billion.

When she approached John Fox, a broker, he realised the story was fictitious, the court was told. Martin Hicks, for the prosecution, said Ms Beguinua told Mr Fox that since 1930 certificates had been deposited in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. Mr Fox knew bullion deposits held there but had been moved.

Ms Beguinua, from Bayswater, London, denies using a copy of a false instrument. The case continues.

Selfless sacrifice puts sheep in clover

By A Staff Reporter


Sheep in the New Forest eyeing up the challenge

A FLOCK of sheep in the New Forest has developed a cunning streak not normally associated with the species. The animals appear to have formed an ovine commando unit to breach cattle grids designed to keep them away from villagers' gardens.

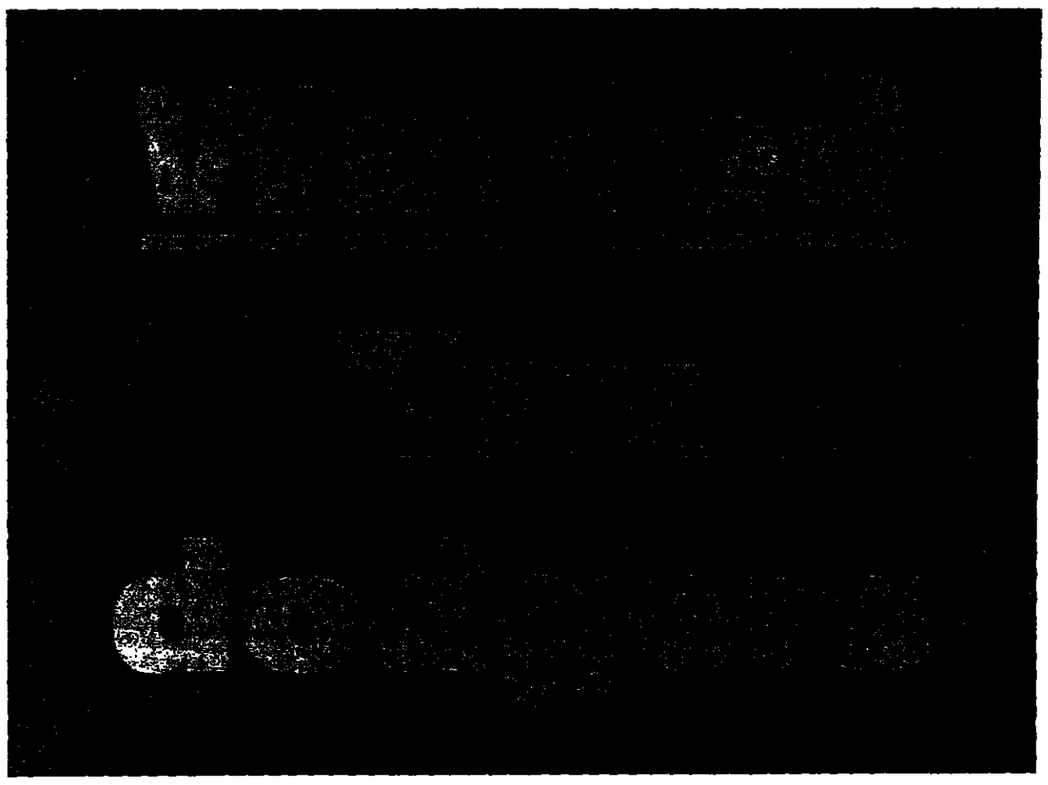
One animal selflessly lies across the grid as its companions line up to step across it to where they can see the grass is greener. The carefully coordinated behaviour, which leaves the first sheep marooned on the wrong side of the grid, has impressed villagers in Bramshaw, Hampshire. Sue Wyatt, a parish councillor, said: "I couldn't believe my eyes the first time I saw it. Once the sheep saw the grass on the other side of my cattle grid they obviously decided nothing was going to stop them getting in.

"They must have seen that the grass was greener in my garden and that — come what may — they were determined to get there. While one of them lies over the grid, the others jump on its back and cross to the other side."

Fellow villagers Len and Ann King said the enterprising manoeuvre was one of many methods sheep had used to enter private gardens. "We had them in and out of our garden for weeks. Despite doing everything we could to stop them. We just couldn't keep them away." Mr King said.

"If they're not battering their way in they're using cunning methods to get to our lawns."

Problems have arisen in the past two years because New Forest commoners have been allowed to turn their sheep out on land owned by the National Trust. At a meeting earlier this week the parish council chairman Jack Sturgess was asked to address the problem.



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Hi-tech treatment can stop the heart

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

AGGRESSIVE treatment of mild heart attacks does more harm than good, an American study has shown. The death rate is higher among patients who are examined by having tubes introduced into their hearts, a procedure that is common in America but less so in Europe.

The findings surprised the researchers because American cardiologists have been convinced that rapid, all-out treatment is the best option, even for victims of relatively mild heart attacks.

"We were just astonished to find that people who got the more aggressive therapy had a significantly higher death rate," William Boden, who directed the study at the Veterans' Affairs Upstate Health Care System in Syracuse, New York, said.

In the aggressive approach tested in the study, doctors send all patients for catheterisations, in which a small tube is introduced into the heart and dye is released so that the blood flow can be seen.

If narrowing is found, such patients are treated with balloon angioplasty — in which a balloon is inflated inside the artery to widen it — or by surgery in which the blocked arteries are bypassed. The alternative is to monitor patients closely with non-invasive tests such as an electrocardiogram, and give drugs that break up blood clots.

Patients get health tips on how to give GPs a happy Easter

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A CAMPAIGN to encourage patients to look after their own health over Easter, so that family doctors can have a restful holiday, was announced by the British Medical Association yesterday.

The campaign, which includes posters and leaflets with advice for doctors and patients, received the backing of the Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, who made a rare visit to the BMA's headquarters to show his support for the country's 30,000 GPs.

However, medical organisations criticised its "negative" content. Cathy Gritzner, of the Patients Association, said the campaign sent out the wrong messages.

"We're concerned that patients will now go to accident and emergency departments at hospitals. You will have very tired junior doctors dealing with patients they don't know and whose history they are unaware of. A & E departments are going to get even more clogged up."



Bogle: said urgent cases would still have access

The Community Practitioners and Health Visitors Association was "gravely concerned" that the campaign would deter the old and the vulnerable from seeking medical help. The BMA said that urgent cases would always receive attention, but that other patients should try to avoid calling out the GP unnecessarily.

Out-of-hours calls have increased fivefold over the past 20 years as patients have increasingly used the service for routine demands. Doctors have reported receiving calls from patients who needed an aspirin for a headache.

Ian Bogle, chairman of the BMA's GPs committee, said the campaign was necessary to avoid the "bedlam" that occurred in GP surgeries in the week before and after the longest public holiday of the year. He said patients taking regular medicines should ensure thay had adequate supplies and that, for most illnesses, a day or two's wait before seeing the doctor would do no harm. But he emphasised that urgent cases would be seen or given advice over the telephone, as appropriate. "They will always have access to GPs," he said.

The £2,500 campaign is the first of the Doctor-Patient Partnership initiated by the BMA and the Health Department last year as part of a deal to end the profession's dispute over out-of-hours payments. About 50 health authorities who have contributed to the scheme will receive posters and leaflets for distribution to patients and doctors, advising them how to prepare for Easter.

Dr Bogle rejected criticism from the Patients Association that the campaign was a misuse of NHS resources designed to benefit doctors, not patients. "Certainly it is about making GPs' lives less hectic, but it is not to allow lazy doctors to put their feet up. I refute that entirely." Mr Dorrell said the public needed to be reminded of how best to use the out-of-hours service.

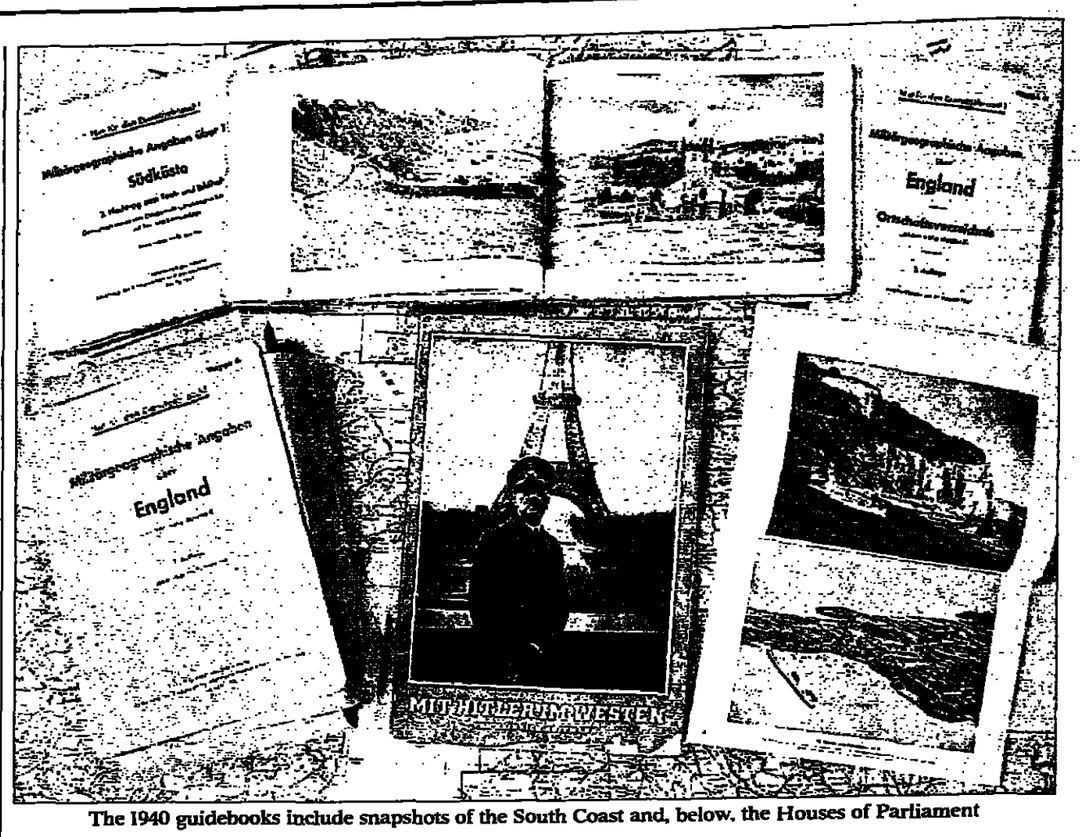
Family sues over CJD

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY

THE brother of a student who died from a brain condition linked to "mad cow" disease has been granted legal aid to sue the Government for alleged negligence in failing to protect the public.

Peter Hall, from Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, died last year aged 20 from a new variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease which scientists think was probably caused by eating beef infected with BSE. The action is being taken by Mr Hall's elder brother, John, 25, a student at Newcastle University.

The likelihood of a link between BSE and the new strain of CJD was disclosed last year by Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary. At the time ten cases of the new disease had been reported. Since then six more have been diagnosed. At Mr Hall's inquest the coroner said the most likely cause was eating BSE-contaminated beef.

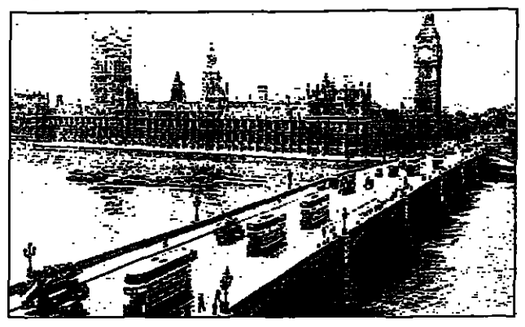


The 1940 guidebooks include snapshots of the South Coast and, below, the Houses of Parliament

Nazis' rough guide to invading Britain

GERMAN intelligence maps disguised as tourist guidebooks are among wartime souvenirs to be sold by a former Royal Engineer. The 20 mapbooks were prepared for Operation Sea Lion, the German invasion which was halted by the Battle of Britain.

The books, dated September 1940, show the South Coast and parts of East Anglia. The Germans had aerial photographs of possible invasion beaches from Dover to the West Country. One book contains a concertina-folded map about 40ft long. There is also a guide to England and a glossary of English, Gaelic and Welsh, plus pamphlets for the invasion of Russia in 1941. They have been put up



for sale by Pat Grehan, 76, a map surveyor from Ormsby St Margaret, near Great Yarmouth, who acquired them while serving with the Royal Engineers. Mr Grehan, the fifth generation of his family to work for the Ordnance Survey, salvaged the documents from a German map depot near Hanover. "There was a wealth of material there. We were instructed to pack up the interesting stuff and send it home and to destroy the rest. As I was a map man, I decided to keep a set as a souvenir."

When he joined the Army he worked on maps for the defence of Southampton and later found copies of them in a German depot in France.

Mr Grehan said: "Towards the end of the war the authorities asked people in this country to send in holiday snaps of the French coast to help to plan the invasion of Europe. The books show how the Germans were doing it well before 1940." The collection is expected to make about £600 at G.A. Key in Aylesham, Norfolk, tomorrow.

Transsexuals win European backing in battle for legal recognition

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

TWO men who changed sex but cannot alter their birth certificates have won a crucial round in their battle for full legal recognition. Kristina Sheffield and Rachel Horsham say the Government's refusal to accept their new sexual status as women breaches their right to respect for a private life, guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights.

Yesterday they won the backing of the European Commission of Human Rights, which has passed their cases to the European Court of Human Rights for a final ruling. A victory there next year would force legal changes to allow transsexuals to have their birth certificates altered. The Government is opposed to such a change, because it says the certificate is a record of events at birth and is not affected by what happens later.

Ms Sheffield, now 51 and living in London, has been provided with a passport and driving licence in her new name since changing sex in 1986, but is still regarded as a man under British law. That means she was required to divorce before the sex-change surgery and cannot marry a man. Her ex-wife's application to a court to terminate Ms Sheffield's access to her daughter was approved, on the ground that contact with a transsexual would not be in the child's interests. As a result, she has not seen her daughter for eight years.

Ms Horsham, also 51, who has been living in Amsterdam since 1983, claims she is forced to live in exile because she wants to marry her male partner. They plan to marry in Holland, where the law recognises transsexuals. She has been issued with a birth certificate showing her new sex by the Register of Births in The Hague, but a request to the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys in Britain to amend her original birth certificate was rejected.

Both women complained to the Commission on Human Rights, which acts as a first filter of cases before referring them to the European Court of Human Rights, that the determination of gender under British law on the basis of "biological indicators" existing at birth was unjustified socially, medically and scientifically.

They argued that the fact that legal purposes — such as obtaining insurance and contractural documents — require them to disclose their previous gender amounted to unnecessary interference. The Government said the human rights convention did not require legal recognition of new sexual identity and that any inconvenience did not amount to a denial of rights. It also argued that marriage may legitimately be restricted under national laws to a union between a man and a woman "of biological origin".

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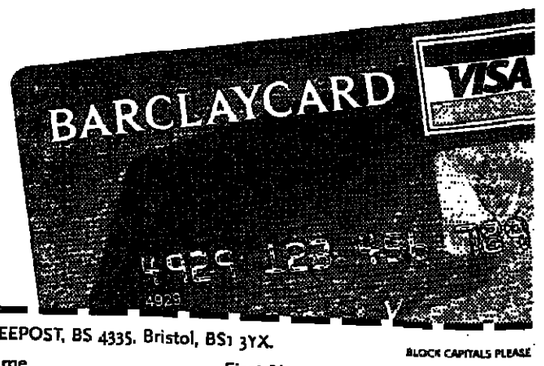
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Rail owners under fire for cancelling too many trains

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE new owners of Regional Railways North East have fallen foul of their local passenger transport authority after cancelling 49 trains in one day. Hundreds of trains have been cancelled, mostly because of a lack of drivers, since MTL Bus group took over the franchise.

The West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Authority said yesterday that 79 trains failed to run in the first week of March, and 97 the following week. On one Saturday, 49 trains were cancelled in West Yorkshire alone.

In the first week of the month 87 per cent of cancellations were due to shortage of drivers. In the second week the proportion attributed to that cause rose to 92 per cent.

Mick Lyons, the West Yorkshire PTA chairman, said yesterday: "The figures for cancellations which I have obtained are shocking. I understand over 80 drivers have lost their jobs. Arrangements were obviously not in place to carry the workload. Whether that is due to rostering problems, or to a lack of trained staff, I do not know."

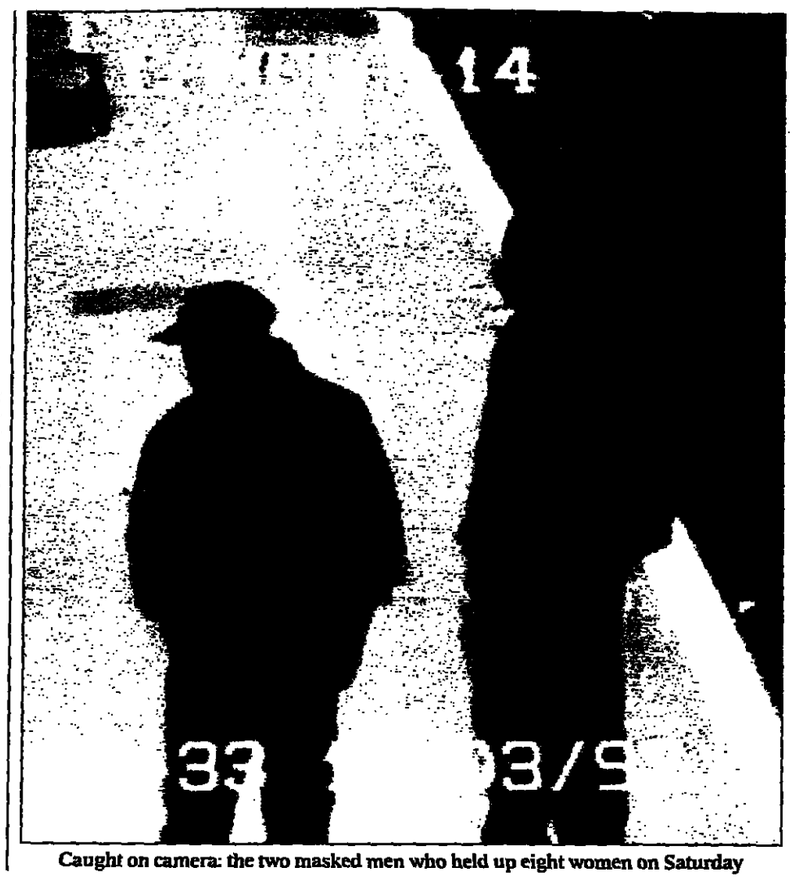
Mr Lyons said he wanted a detailed explanation from MTL and an action plan outlining how it intended to rectify the situation. He added: "We are just at the outset of the franchise and already we are getting reports of the same problems which are bedevilling other franchises in other parts of the country."

The rail pressure group Save Our Railways criticised MTL for cutting jobs and not caring about passengers. Jonathan Bray, the group co-ordinator, said: "MTL had detailed plans setting out their job-cutting proposals for months before they took over. Now the scale of job cuts they are proposing — some 40 per cent of the workforce — are hitting home. Serious questions must now be asked about why the franchise director gave the contract for Regional Railways North East to a company whose job-cutting plans were always bound to cause misery for customers."

A spokesman for MTL admitted there had been "a small increase in cancellations". He said: "The number of trains run has fallen slightly from 99.6 per cent to 99.3 per cent. This remains significantly better than the Passenger's Charter requirement in our contract as operators."

He added: "Most of these cancellations were due to problems surrounding a new drivers' roster introduced by British Rail before MTL secured the franchise."

The number of cancellations on Regional Railways North East has at times even exceeded the cancellation rate on South West Rail, where the Stagecoach company has admitted that it made a misjudgment in laying off too many drivers. South West has paid out millions in compensation to passengers, and has been told it could lose its franchise unless performance quickly improves.



Caught on camera: the two masked men who held up eight women on Saturday

Police release video of armed Tube robbers

BY STEWART TENDLER

POLICE hunting masked robbers who held up eight women at gunpoint on a late-night London Underground train released video pictures of the two men yesterday.

The robbers boarded a Bakerloo train at Harrow and Wealdstone, north London, and threatened one passenger, who was travelling alone, with a handgun before terrorising seven other women who had joined in a group at the next stop.

Police believe the robbers followed the women into their carriage. The men fled at Willesden Junction station, after robbing the women of £50.

As transport workers began pasting photographs of the two men at Tube stations around north London and Bakerloo line stations yesterday, police said the two men may have turned to robbery on a whim after running out of cash on a night out.

All the victims are foreign, including one who had lived in a Somali refugee camp, and were travelling late last Saturday night. Police said the two men had boarded the train about 11pm.

They had been seen talking to two young girls and had then climbed into a carriage where a 24-year-old Singapore accountancy student was sitting on her own. As the train pulled out the two men, aged between 17 and 20, pulled masks over their faces, drew out small black handguns, pointed them at the woman and demanded cash. She gave them £4 in small change and was then told by the gunmen to get off at the next station, Kenton.

The two men stayed on the train. A group of seven women got on to a nearby carriage at Stonebridge Park. The seven included three Somalis, a Ugandan and three Ethiopians. They are all aged between their mid-20s and mid-30s and had been working on a casual shift in a local factory.

The first victim had raised the alarm and armed police raced to intercept the train, but the robbers had already disappeared.

SATURDAY
IN THE TIMES



A WORD IN YOUR EAR
Why life coaches are America's newest personal accessory *in* **Weekend**

PIPPED AT THE POST
Gazumping and how to avoid it *in* **Weekend**

Runway protesters take to the trees

BY LIN JENKINS

THE opening skirmishes in the battle of Manchester airport's second runway saw three arrests among protesters as they took to the trees to avoid the police yesterday. More than 50 officers were deployed after contractors spent a futile week trying to sink fenceposts around the site while under constant bombardment from the protesters.

Anti-roads protesters and environmentalists have chosen the development to be the latest battleground in their campaign. One who calls himself "Inverness John" will appear before magistrates today, charged under his real name of John Wesley Davies, 32, with causing criminal damage to a video camera used by the contractors to record events. Two women were also arrested.

One veteran of the tunnelling at the Newbury bypass climbed into the trees to defy the contractors. "These are the first trees here to come under threat," she said. "We can stay here as long as it takes."

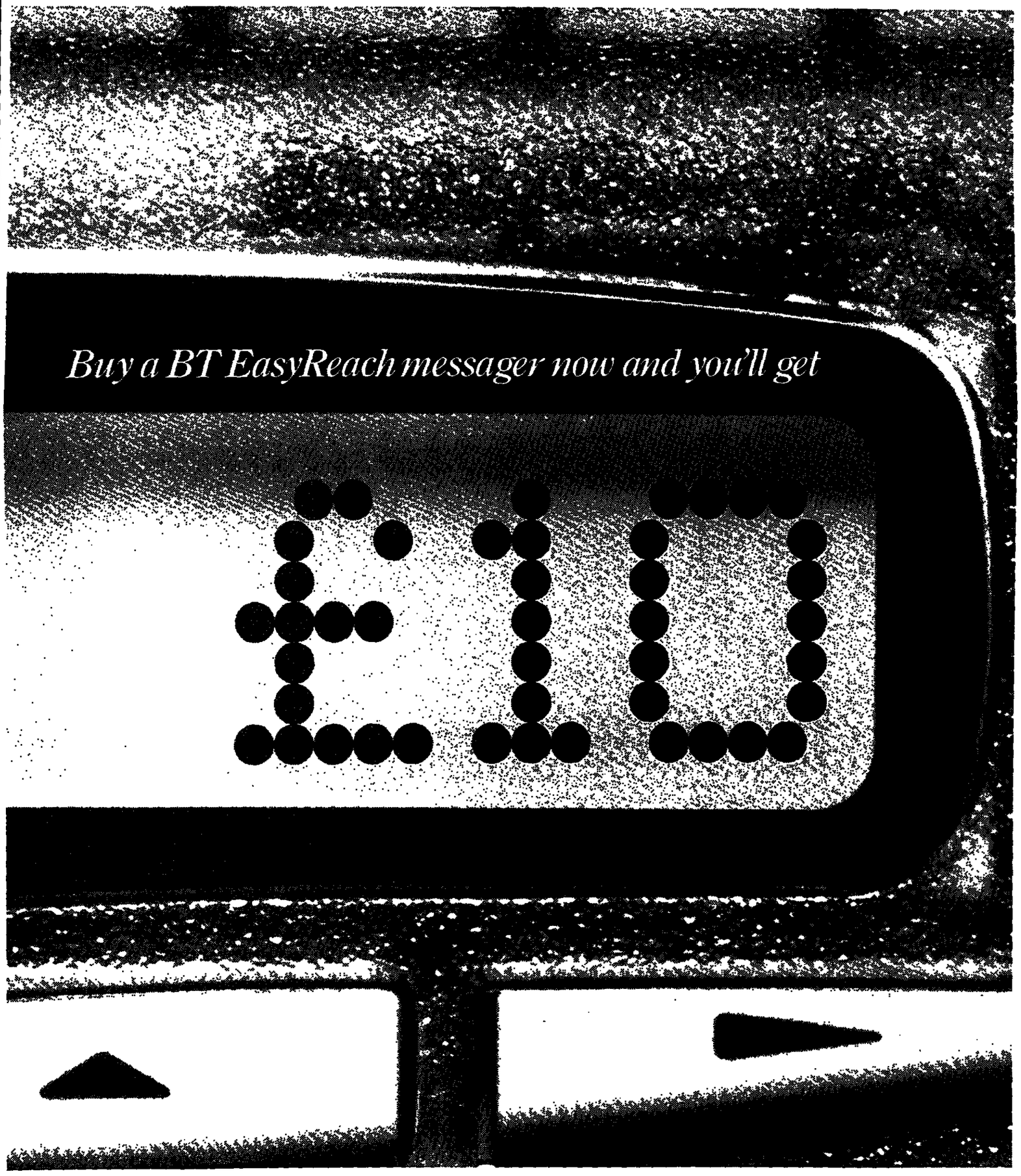
After an hour-long stand-off the contractors moved away and began sinking fenceposts on the outskirts of the camp. Protesters delayed the work by "digger diving" the JCB, climbing on to the machine, only to be pulled off by security staff.



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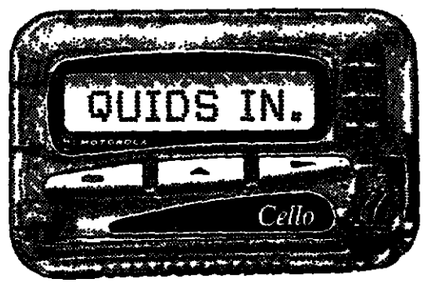
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Senior Tory urges rethink on nursery vouchers to cut red tape

BY DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR Conservative called yesterday for a complete rethink of the Government's nursery voucher scheme to save parents and schools from bureaucracy.

Sir Malcolm Thornton, chairman of the Education and Employment Select Committee, said the vouchers, being sent to parents of 600,000 four-year-olds, should not be used for school reception classes.

Vouchers should be limited to younger four-year-olds and used for "genuine" nursery education, he said. Schools should retain central funding to take children in the term they become five, saving parents the confusion of having to "buy" a place at their local primary school.

This would cut by a third the number of vouchers and substantially reduce the £120 million the system costs to run. Labour called his views a "body blow" to the nursery voucher policy, which John Major claimed would increase parental choice.

A widely leaked report from Sir Malcolm's committee yesterday criticised the scheme for encouraging reception classes to mushroom as they "hoovered up" four-year-olds. The report said it was quite wrong for young four-year-olds to attend reception classes and expressed concern that heads were putting pressure on parents to send them.

A dozen voluntary nurseries have been forced to close in Norfolk, one of the trial areas for vouchers, because they could not compete with reception classes of unrestricted size. The Children Act limits nursery classes to 13 children per adult.

Sir Malcolm said: "I would like to see a much tighter definition across the country of the age which you admit children into primary and reception classes. Anybody going in over four years and nine months would not require a voucher, because they would then be eligible for mainstream education.

"That would be a significant step forward, getting rid of an element of bureaucracy which primary schools have to face ... We don't say that in the [select committee] report, but you could logically tease that out of it because of the comments we make."

The cross-party report said the evidence was "inconclusive" that voucher would increase nursery places. Research for the Pre-School Learning Alliance showed last month that a quarter of local authorities were planning to expand reception classes to compete for voucher money.

Robin Squire, the Schools Minister, said vouchers had not changed the trend of parents choosing reception classes. "Even before nursery vouchers were a smudge on the horizon a very high proportion of four-year-olds were being admitted into them, presumably because their parents wanted that." He denied they were detrimental to four-year-olds' needs.

ADRIAN SHERRATT



Deborah Swift, of Fleet, Hampshire, with her children Victoria, 17, and Joseph, 16

Private school inspectors 'not tough enough'

BY JOHN O'LEARY

INSPECTION reports on more than 1,000 independent schools often play down weaknesses and judge pupils' performance too leniently, the Office for Standards in Education said yesterday.

Separate reports on the two inspection regimes for independent education concluded that inspectors gave a fair picture of most schools. The system used by the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC), covering 300 leading schools, was said to be comprehensive and not to shirk criticism.

But the system used by most independent schools was said to relegate criticisms to the end of reports. Schools can choose whether to publish inspectors' findings and are allowed to release edited versions of the reports.

Ofsted's study of the Accreditation, Review and Consultancy Service (ARCS) said there was a tendency to avoid criticising senior management. The visits, of only two days, were often not long enough. The report said: "In a disconcerting number of reports, and contrary to the requirements of ARCS, criticisms are relegated from the conclusions to the recommendations section. Her Majesty's Inspectors checking reports judged that those which were less forthright in their criticism were also less likely to lead to improvement."

The HMC's reports, taking twice as long to compile, are made available to parents in summary form. Some schools make them available in full. Both systems were criticised for failing to give sufficient attention to whether pupils should be doing better. Inspectors tended to judge performance against national norms, even when pupils were well above average ability.



Weapons expert's widow seeks truth about his death

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT



Major Swift was killed on Oman secondment

THE widow of an army major, who was killed in Oman while testing a new grenade, is still waiting for a full explanation of what happened to her husband.

Major Anthony Swift, 40, a weapons expert on secondment in Oman, died in June 1994 when he fired a rifle-launched grenade which detonated prematurely. The explosion destroyed much of the evidence, and a board of inquiry held by the Omani Ministry of Defence in July 1994 found that the cause of the detonation could not be determined conclusively.

Ever since the accident, Major Swift's widow, Deborah, has been trying to find out the circumstances of her husband's death. She claims that the Ministry of Defence in London was not interested in helping her.

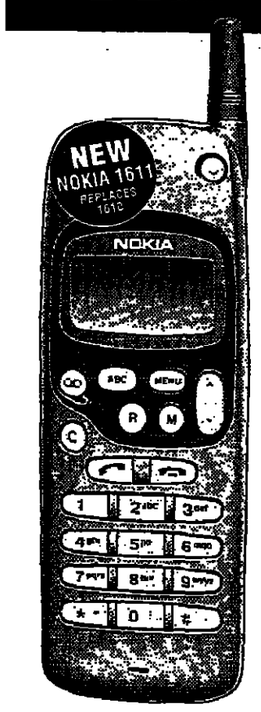
She said she was told there would be a British Army board of inquiry. When she discovered the Omanis had carried out the inquiry, she was informed this was because her husband was on loan to the Royal Army of Oman for whom the grenade, developed by the Australian Defence Industries, was being tested.

However, when she started a legal claim against the Omani Ministry of Defence, she received a letter from the ministry in Muscat which said: "Any such claim against the Royal Army of Oman is both ill-conceived and ill-founded. Major Swift was at all times a serving member and employee of the British Army ... any claim or grievance should be directed to the UK Ministry of Defence."

Although she was sent a copy of the Omani report, sections had been removed on the ground of confidentiality.

Mrs Swift, of Fleet, in Hampshire, said yesterday: "My husband was exonerated of any blame, so there must have been a fault with the grenade. I have to find out what happened before I can get on with my life."

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Land famine silences Army's big guns

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Army cannot practise properly with its new high-tech weapons because training land in Britain is heavily restricted and overseas plots are too expensive, according to a report published yesterday. The Army's Land Command says that Britain needs 83,000 more hectares (205,000 acres) of military land.

With 70 per cent of the Army now based at home, this was posing a serious problem, army sources said. Even though the deficit was offset by exercises in such countries as Canada and Poland, equivalent to 27,000 hectares, by other operational commitments which reduced the demand for training at home and by an increased use of private land, there was still a shortfall of about 39,000 hectares, which was bigger than the Salisbury Plain training area.

Army sources said there were concerns about the Army's ability to train for high-intensity war, especially among artillery and armoured units equipped with advanced weapon systems such as the AS90 gun and the multiple launch rocket system.

The Defence Ministry wants to fire these longer-range guns in the Otterburn training area in Northumberland National Park and there will be a planning inquiry soon. To mount an exercise involving an armoured brigade, the Army needs an area measuring about 25 miles by 15 miles. Post-Cold War restrictions on training has made this "just not realistic", the report says. Although more training areas were being made available overseas, especially in eastern Europe, it was expensive to send tanks and guns so far afield.

Writing in the report, *Striking a Balance 1997*, Lieutenant-General Sir Hew Pike, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Land Command, said: "Those who suggest that we should look only outside the UK for training areas fail to understand a vital point — that it is the responsibility of our nation to provide its Armed Forces with the facilities to train."

He said it was "both unreasonable and short-sighted to rely on the goodwill of our neighbours and allies to provide training lands for our needs".

The Army is trying to make maximum use of the available land in Britain, with a programme of infilling between training areas to increase the overall acreage. Three disused RAF air bases at Caerwent in Monmouthshire, Sculthorpe in Norfolk and Woodbridge in Suffolk are also going to be used for army training.

The report says that there are eight categories of training that require land, including armoured live firing, armoured manoeuvres, nuclear biological and chemical warfare and fighting in built-up areas.

It says the development of facilities at Otterburn for training in the AS90 and multiple launch rocket system was essential to help to remedy the shortfalls in land for field-firing exercises. To help to meet public criticism of the noise of live firing, the Army is planning to introduce a a computerised system called gunfire noise analysis tool, which predicts noise levels for every type of shell in different weather conditions.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Challenge on baton man's death

The family of Brian Douglas, 33, who died after a confrontation with two police officers equipped with US-style batons, has won permission to challenge an inquest jury's misadventure verdict.

A High Court judge gave leave for a judicial review application, when it will be argued that the coroner was wrong to let the jury hear evidence of Mr Douglas's convictions. He had been arrested in south London on suspicion of being under the influence of drugs and drink.

Stagg appeal

Diane Stagg, whose husband, Colin, was cleared of the murder of Rachel Nickell, lost an appeal at Kingston Crown Court against a two-month prison sentence for assaulting two police officers.

Kilroy-Silk wins

The broadcaster Robert Kilroy-Silk accepted a public apology and substantial undisclosed libel damages at the High Court, over allegations by the Tory MP Warren Hawksley of political bias.

Defensive gesture

The Defence Ministry is selling Haymes Garth, Gloucestershire, the former home of Air Chief Marshal Sir Sandy Wilson, who resigned in 1995 after a refurbishment bill exceeded the budget by £120,000.

Sticky solution

Aberdeen is helping to pioneer a process using frozen carbon dioxide to clear chewing gum from pavements. It is spending £8,000 on testing the system, which is being closely observed by other cities.

Jean Brodie prize

Dame Muriel Spark has given £10,000 won in a literary prize to James Gillespie's High School in Edinburgh, on which she based her 1961 novel *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. Award, page 24

Tail piece

A terrier depicted on a popular Irish postcard smoking a pipe while sitting on a donkey has been reunited with its owner. Judy had run off while Tony Garrahy, 82, kept a Dublin hospital appointment.

Public enlisted in fight against country clutter

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

A CAMPAIGN against the creeping disfigurement of the countryside was launched yesterday with an appeal for the public to expose intrusive road signs, garish rural architecture and insensitively sited wind turbines and mobile telephone masts.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) is compiling a dossier of the worst examples of countryside clutter to encourage the Government and local authorities to introduce tougher planning controls.

Neil Sinden, the CPRE's head of planning, said: "We will be appealing to the public to report on the most intrusive types of development that are blurring the distinction between town and countryside and threatening areas of natural beauty."

The CPRE is particularly concerned by the growing number of wind turbines and mobile telephone masts, often sited on high ground. There are about 35 wind farms, many of them in beautiful areas of Wales, Cornwall, Yorkshire and Cumbria. They have a total of nearly 630 turbines up to 200ft in height. Last month the Department of Trade and Industry granted contracts to 65 more wind-energy projects, which will add 1,100 turbines to the landscape.

Wind farms, which are subsidised by the Government, contribute less than 1 per cent to total energy supplies. The British Wind Energy Association hopes that they will supply 10 per cent of total demand by 2025, which would require an estimated 10,000 turbines.

The CPRE argues that the visual impact is disproportionate to the energy output. But Peter Edwards, chairman of the wind energy association, said: "Every form of energy generation has its drawbacks but harnessing wind power has far fewer than most."

There are up to 8,000 telecommunications masts, with a further 3,000 expected in the next few years. In the 1980s the Government passed legislation that relaxed the planning process to encourage the mobile telephone networks to develop. But Mr Sinden said: "Planning controls must be tightened. As things stand, provided the masts are less than 15 metres in height, full planning controls do not apply. Although local authorities have some say over the design and location of masts, it is difficult for them to refuse planning permission."

Orange, one of the biggest mobile phone companies, is experimenting with camouflaging masts to make them resemble trees. The first such mast has been erected near the Lake District town of Cockermouth.

Other targets of the CPRE campaign include excessively bright road and village lighting, garish facades on restaurants and garages, and insensitive siting of telephone kiosks.

GAVIN FOGG



Andy Payne, an English Heritage archaeologist, maps the outline of a forum building with a magnetometer

'Virtual spades' uncover Roman city

FIRST it was virtual reality, now it is virtual spadework. For two days, English Heritage is inviting visitors to look beneath the soil of the Shropshire village of Wroxeter at the remains of the Roman city of Viroconium (Marcus Binney writes).

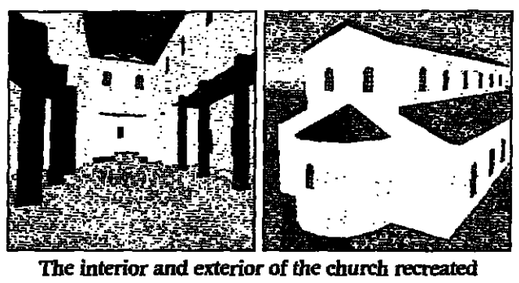
In its prime the city was the fourth largest in these islands and its 140 acres have been described as Britain's Pompeii. The remains have survived virtually untouched beneath pastures for over 1,500 years.

Archaeologists are demonstrating new techniques for using ground-penetrating radar and magnetometers, which enable them to chart the position of long-buried streets and buildings. Dr Andrew David, head of Archaeometry at English Heritage, who is working with teams from the universities of Birmingham and Bradford, says: "In the next few weeks we will have a complete street atlas of the town, showing the grid pattern of the streets, and the alignment of buildings including large houses.

"One of our most exciting finds has been traces of a structure resembling a stone church, nearly 100ft long, and potentially one of the first Christian churches in Britain." Some 5th-century timber buildings may have been erected after the Romans left.

English Heritage has adopted the virtual spadework techniques to map sites without the need to dig them up and thereby damage them. Magnetometers respond to slight changes in the magnet field of the soil, especially those caused by burnt remains. They can identify clay structures such as pottery kilns, hearths and ovens.

The site remains open to the public today.



The interior and exterior of the church recreated

Hosepipe bans likely after two dry years

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

EAST and southeast England face a water crisis this summer, a government body said yesterday. After almost two years of low rainfall — the driest period for 150 years — underground water sources are in some places at the lowest ever recorded.

April 1995 was the last time that reservoirs and groundwater sources were full, a report by the Environment Agency said. Between then and January of this year, 360 mm less rain than average fell in England and Wales. That is equivalent to losing four full months of winter rainfall.

Hosepipe bans and other curbs on water use are likely to be necessary in east and southeast England, which depend on groundwater sources for between a third and two thirds of their supplies, according to the agency.

"Since April 1995 there have been only five months of above average rainfall. The period up to the end of January 1997 was the driest since the 1850s," the report says. A wetter February brought some relief but March has so far been drier than average.

Geoff Mance, the agency's head of water management, said: "Particular concern is focused on the South and South-East. We will be monitoring water company performance closely to ensure appropriate action is taken to manage the situation and avoid damaging the environment."

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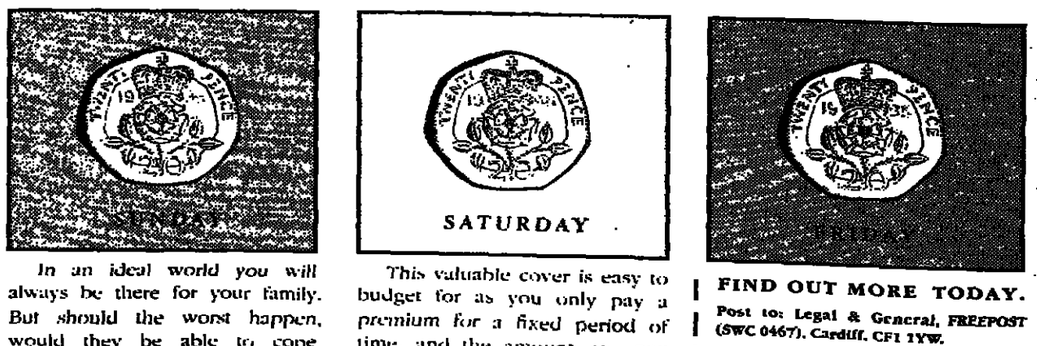
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Legal & General

1,800 students chase 120 places on new Bar school course

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

INTENSE competition to enter the Bar was revealed yesterday by figures showing that 1,800 students have applied for 120 places on the new Bar vocational course being run by the College of Law in September.

It is the first time that institutions other than the Inns of Court School of Law have been allowed to offer the one-year vocational course which barristers have to pass before they can seek a traineeship in chambers, or pupillage. The first offers will be sent out this week through the Bar Council. The College of Law is the biggest organisation for training solicitors in Europe with branches in London, Guildford, York and Chester. The course has been devised with the help of an advisory board chaired by a High Court judge, Mr Justice Lightman, and including Cherie Booth, QC.

The figures coincide with the first analysis of the offers made in recent months by chambers to the students who have completed the Bar vocational course. The offers have been made through the Bar's first clearing-house scheme, which has attracted criticism from students who said that all first-round offers went to 25 per cent of students. A breakdown of the figures shows that it is far harder for ethnic minority candidates of both sexes to obtain an offer than for white candidates. It is also easier for younger candidates to obtain offers.

Some 855 white males applied for pupillages, which was 49.5 per cent of the total of 1,727 applicants, and 499 of them received offers (52.3 per cent of the total). White females did better: 523 applied (30.3 per cent) and 340 (35.6 per cent) obtained offers. Of the ethnic minority students, 176 males and 173 females (10.2 per cent and 10 per cent) applied for pupillages and 58 and 57 respectively (about 6 per cent) received offers. The older the applicants, the worse they fared. The 44 per cent of applicants under 25 commanded more than 65 per cent of the offers, while the 17 per cent in the age range 31 to 40 commanded just over 9 per cent, and the 5 per cent who were aged between 41 and 50 commanded only 1.3 per cent.

Robert Owen, QC, chairman of the Bar, said the disproportionate number of younger students taken on was because of "the demands of the market", rather than a consequence of the system. But he said the Bar would be studying the figures to see if any action could be taken.

Yesterday the scheme was dealt a fresh blow when one of the most prestigious sets of chambers, 2 Hare Court, pulled out because it felt students had no certainty of gaining a pupillage despite paying for a vocational course.

Law Report, page 42



Close copy: Christina Hance as the Princess

Being Princess's double was not a job to dye for

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

A WOMAN who has made a lucrative career out of looking like Diana, Princess of Wales, has decided to retire after ten years because of the strain of living in the public eye.

Christina Hance, 36, who earned up to £5,000 a day as an impersonator, said yesterday that she could no longer cope with the constant attention and had found herself suffering the same domestic and health problems as her royal alter ego.

Ms Hance, from St Neots, Cambridgeshire, is packing away her tiara and plans to dye her blonde highlights black to ensure she is no longer mistaken for the Princess. "Being Diana sent me mad and made me very ill. The first five years were total excitement, but I ended up like a zombie," she said yesterday. "It means I can't go anywhere without attracting attention. The lack of privacy has been difficult to deal with."

Ms Hance was working as a secretary when her boyfriend sent her photograph to a television competition ten years ago. She was immediately offered a steady stream of work and, over the years, she has learnt to imitate the Princess's mannerisms through studying newspaper clippings and television footage.



The Princess: alter ego suffered same problems

However, she said, her health suffered with the Princess's. "The strain of public life has been too much for both of us. As Diana suffered so did I — our lives followed the same pattern. I developed irritable bowel syndrome from not eating properly, took anti-depressants to cope with violent mood swings.

"My weight was going up and down and I found it difficult to sleep. I felt my health and mind slowly going."

Her marriage ended in divorce and her last relationship ended when her boyfriend was unable to cope with her double lifestyle. During many jobs, she said, she was treated as if she were the Princess. "A lot of jobs were set up as if I were the real Diana. I travelled in limousines and private jets and was given a bodyguard.

"I lived the life of a princess for a day and then went home to do the washing up. It was very hard to adjust to that. The lack of privacy has been difficult to deal with because people don't just look at me, they stare."

Last year Ms Hance was one of two lookalikes to appear in a videotape apparently showing the Princess cavorting at Highgrove with Major James Hewitt. Ms Hance believed that she was making a sketch for a new satirical television show, but stills were later used to fool *The Sun*, which published them as genuine.

Ms Hance is setting up a business distributing aloe vera gel. "I won't miss the business. There was no real job satisfaction," she said.

£80,000 for solicitor in newspaper libel case

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A SOLICITOR at the heart of a High Court libel action over brainwashing allegations settled his claim against *The Daily Telegraph* for £80,000 yesterday.

Stephen Kirby accepted the sum as damages, plus his legal costs and a public apology, before a jury, which on Tuesday found in his favour, went on to assess an award.

Mr Kirby had sued the newspaper with Richard Wilmot-Smith, QC, and his wife, Jenny, a psychic healer, over an article in 1995 headlined "Dark side of the New Age". They said the report made it appear that Mr Kirby had been brainwashed into leaving his family.

Mr Kirby, 41, from Islington, north London, separated from his wife, Clare, ten months after he first consulted Mrs Wilmot-Smith about headaches. He and his wife have two children.

The newspaper and Mrs Kirby, who was sued by the Wilmot-Smiths alone, denied libel and pleaded justification. On Tuesday the jury awarded Mr Wilmot-Smith £250,000 and his wife £100,000. The newspaper also has to pay an estimated costs bill of more than £500,000.

Indonesia arms deals challenged in court

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE first legal challenge to the Government's defence export policy was launched in the High Court yesterday.

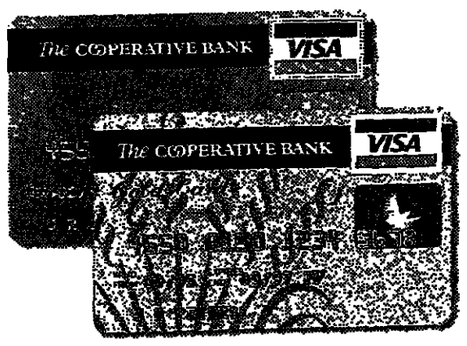
An alliance of pressure groups is seeking to have the Government's approval of arms sales to Indonesia declared unlawful and has applied for a judicial review. A judge will now decide whether there is "an arguable case".

The challenge is being led by the World Development Movement with the support of the Campaign Against the Arms Trade and the Indonesia Human Rights Campaign. The groups claim that British-made arms have been used against peaceful demonstrators. Harriet Lamb, a spokeswoman for the campaign, said: "All the evidence shows that Indonesia is guilty of recent serious human rights abuses and British equipment has been misused in perpetuating these abuses. The evidence also shows the Government knew this, and yet they granted licences for more equipment."

The Department of Trade and Industry said that the licences were issued "in the light of established and internationally agreed criteria for military exports".

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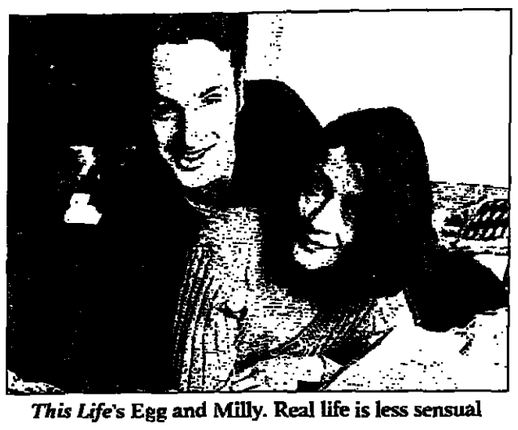
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More than one third of women abstain from sex

By Dominic Kennedy
Social Affairs Correspondent



This Life's Egg and Milly. Real life is less sensual

THE British are much less sexually active than suggested by glossy magazines, the advertising industry and television dramas. While the new series of BBC2's *This Life* depicts a group of young solicitors bed-hopping, the reality is far less exciting, according to the latest General Household Survey.

Thirty-nine per cent of unmarried females are chaste, along with 34 per cent of widowed, divorced and separated women, according to the most comprehensive government survey of lifestyles. By contrast, 99 per cent of married or cohabiting women have an active sex life. The figures were obtained by questioning 5,067 women aged 16 to 49 about their use of contraceptives.

Researchers discovered that 28 per cent of women did not practise contraception. Half of those did not have a sexual relationship. Despite the exciting image of teenage life portrayed by youth magazines, young people have the least sex of any age group.

Teenagers are far less likely to be sexually active than their middle-aged mothers. Among 16 and 17-year-old girls, 64 per cent had no sexual relationship. At 18 and 19, the figure fell to 37 per cent and among 20 to 24-year-olds it was 20 per cent.

Between the ages of 25 and 49 sexual activity reaches its peak, with 90 per cent or more of women having sex. The types of women who are likely to have no sex are on the increase. The proportion of single women has risen by half since 1979, reaching 28 per cent. Divorcees have doubled from 4 per cent to 9 per cent.

The use of condoms is still increasing as health educators promote them as protection against Aids. Among 18 and 19-year-olds, 26 per cent use a condom, compared with 6 per cent in 1986.

There has, however, been a fall in the proportion of 16 and 17-year-olds practising safer sex, from 17 per cent in 1993 to 13 per cent. This may be because the predicted Aids plague, which experts used in the 1980s to frighten sexually active people into changing their habits, did not happen.

The Pill is the favourite method of contraception, used by 25 per cent of women and most popular among those in their 20s and single. Sterilisation is used by 24 per cent of couples, mostly married. Emergency contraception, usually the "morning-after" Pill, is used by 7 per cent of women and is favoured by under-30s.

How they made a meal of manners in 1791

By John Vincent

DINNER party hosts agonising over where to seat guests might spare a thought for their high-society counterparts of the 18th century.

Giving a successful banquet required a keen awareness of precedence and attention to the minutiae of table manners, carving, servants' behaviour, small-talk and dress.

A rare example of a 1791 guide to ease the way into genteel society of the aspiring host or hostess has emerged from a private library coming onto the auction market.

The Honours of the Table, or Rules for behaviour during meals with the whole art of carving ... for the use of young people, by John Trusler, is expected to fetch up to £500 at Christie's tomorrow.

Rupert Neelands, of Christie's, said yesterday: "The rules in those days were very complicated. For instance, the host and hostess had to go on eating as long as the last guest was eating. They had to plough on or it was considered impolite."

Trusler writes: "When dinner is announced, the mistress of the house requests the lady first in rank to shew the way to the rest, and walk first into the room. She then asks the second in precedence to follow, and after all the ladies are passed, she brings up the rear herself. The master of the house does the same with the gentlemen."

Seating is simple. "The mistress of the table sits at the upper-end, those of superior rank next her, right and left, those next in rank following, then the gentlemen, and the master at the lower end."

Eating and drinking required care and Trusler's advice could still apply in some quarters today. "Eating a great deal is indelicate to a lady (for her character should be rather divine than sensual) so it will be ill-mannered to help her to a large slice of meat at once, or fill her plate too full. As it is unseemly for ladies to call for wine, the gentlemen present should ask them in turn whether it is agreeable to drink a glass."

Trusler concludes with some "valuable hints" for hosts. "Shew in every thing a modesty. Be not always speaking of yourself, be not bashful, be not forward, boast not, angle not for praise."

Aspiring party-givers are advised "on all occasions to keep up good breeding, to be remarkable for cleanliness of person, to attend to your address and phraseology and small-talk". He concludes: "Use fashionable language."

MARY EVANS PICTURE LIBRARY



Entertaining in the 18th century required keen attention to the minutiae

Scots and poor have more false teeth

By Dominic Kennedy

THE poorest people are far more likely to lose their teeth than the affluent. By the age of 74, 59 per cent of people who had been unskilled manual workers were toothless, compared with 18 per cent among the professional classes.

There is also a striking geographical inequality in dental health. Nearly one in four of all Scots have no teeth, and more than a fifth of people in Yorkshire. However, around Greater London and the South East, only 10 per cent of the population are toothless.

The reasons for the geographical variations are uncertain; Scots are more likely to go for a regular dental check than the English. The social reasons for tooth loss are more obvious: professional people are most likely to have checks and manual workers the least.

Good habits are passed down among families. The main factor deciding whether a child will go to the dentist regularly is whether the child's mother does so. Dental hygiene is improving overall, with only 15 per cent of all Britons being toothless, compared with 26 per cent in 1983. The proportion of people who have bought private medical insurance has doubled to 6 per cent since 1983.

The General Household Survey also discloses an increase in the number of men who have a hearing difficulty, but do not wear a hearing aid. In 1979, 82 per cent of men aged 45 to 64 had no hearing problems, compared with 77 per cent now.

Health plan fails to curb smoking

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Correspondent

A GROUP of MPs criticised the Department of Health yesterday for its failure to curb the rise in teenage smoking. The Commons Public Accounts Committee said it was "dismayed" by the increase, from 8 per cent to 12 per cent of 11 to 15-year-olds in the two years to 1994. The target was a reduction to 6 per cent under the Health of the Nation strategy.

Labour seized on the report, challenging Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, to ban tobacco advertising and calling on Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, to declare the amount of money the Conservatives receive from the tobacco industry.

The committee, which examined progress towards the 27 targets set under the Health of the Nation strategy launched in 1992, said the rise in teenage smoking would have knock-on effects on cancer and heart disease. "We look to the department, together with the Department of the Environment and the Department of Education and Employment, to explore what further action can be taken to reverse this trend," it said.

The committee, echoing the report by the National Audit Office last year, said there had been good progress towards 11 of the 27 targets, especially on heart disease, stroke and some cancers. However, key targets on obesity and women's drinking were being missed. The committee said it was "disturbed" by a rise in adult obesity of more than a third. By 1994, 16 per cent of women were rated obese, as were 13 per cent of men. It was also concerned about the rise in the number of women drinking more than 14 units of alcohol a week, to 13 per cent by 1994 compared with a target reduction to 7 per cent by 2005.

Children defy TV's watershed

By Alexandra Frean

NEARLY half of British children aged five and six claim that at weekends they watch television later than the 9pm watershed, after which material meant for adults is broadcast, according to research published today.

The survey, conducted by the Norwich-based market research company SMRC Childwise, shows that more than a fifth of five and six-year-olds claim that they even watch television after 9pm during the week. Rosemary Duff, one of the study's authors, said that parents were increasingly unable or unwilling to prevent their children watching after the watershed.

As more than half of children aged five to fourteen have a television in their bedroom and nearly a fifth have their own video recorder, it is becoming increasingly difficult for parents to control their children's viewing.

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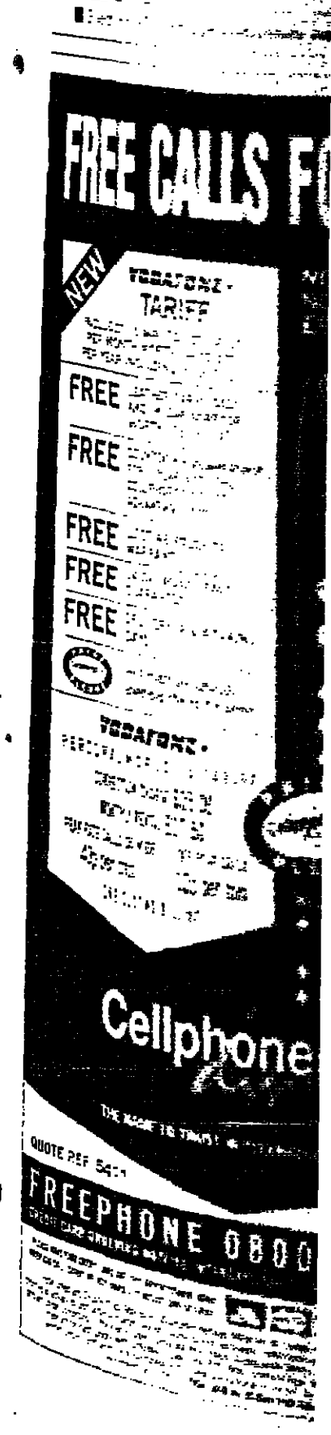
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Labour wants a more democratic second chamber — but critics foresee an ermine-clad quango

Reform of Lords spells end of great political dynasties

■ Many in the Lords accept that change is inevitable, but they do not agree on what form it should take, Ruth Winstone writes

THE Labour Prime Minister Clement Attlee once said that if he ever ended up as a peer he would take the title Lord Luvaduck. He did indeed take an earldom when he retired, but, to the disappointment of all, chose against the name.

His grandson Earl Attlee, who has just joined the Conservatives from the cross-benches, would be among some of the most distinguished political dynasties of the past 700 years to lose their voting rights in the House of Lords if Labour and Liberal Democrat proposals for electoral reform go ahead.

Under the plans, hereditary peers would lose their right to sit, speak and vote in the Lords. "Club rights", allowing them to use the bars and restaurants, might be offered as a sweetener to soften the blow.

Viscount Cranborne, John



Attlee: took an earldom after leaving Commons

Major's chief of staff during the election, who is part of the Cecil family, would be a high-profile casualty, along with the Liberal Democrat Earl Russell, son of Bertrand Russell, and the Earl of Carnarvon, a crossbencher, who is racing manager to the Queen.

It was Lord Carnarvon's grandfather, the 5th earl, whose passion for Egyptology led to the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922. The current earl shares his grandfather's other great interests, horses and racing, and is only an occasional attender in the Lords.

By contrast, the 5th Earl Russell is one of the most active hereditary peers and a supporter of reform. He is a highly effective spokesman on social security. In 1834 his great-grandfather, John Russell, was among the Whigs who pushed the Great Reform Act through Parliament and went on to become Prime Minister. Among other family achievements, his two grandsons, of whom Bertrand was one, accumulated a total of seven wives.

The present earl is convinced that another period of reform is essential, and one which would end his family's long connections with the Lords. It is proportional representation and the need to control the executive, as much as the removal of the hereditary principle, that underlies his support for reform. "Westminster is a sandcastle with the tide lapping round it and the House of Commons is becoming more and more isolated," he said.

The Government, he believes, is the most centralised and least controlled of any in the Western world. The importance of a reformed Lords must rest on the checks it imposes on the executive, where the Opposition in the Commons has failed.

Robin Cook, chairman of Labour's policy forum, has suggested that the replacement of hereditary peers by newly created life peerages would, over the course of a Parliament, ensure that the balance in the Lords reflected the proportion of votes cast for each party in an election.

But replacing the hereditary principle by one which offered more patronage to the Prime Minister and party leaders — an ermine-clad quango — is the worse solution for Lord Cranborne, the Leader of the House of Lords.

Reform, to which he is not opposed, should produce a second chamber which was independent, not in elective competition with the Commons and not susceptible to corruption. The current proposals are, he believes, muddled, and a Lords filled with life peers on a proportional basis, could be used by a government as "a poodle", to quote Lloyd George in an earlier constitutional battle.

Also facing exclusion would be the Countess of Mar, one of 16 women who sit in the Lords through succession. She was working for the Post Office when she inherited the title in 1975. She has described herself as "the most ordinary aristocrat in Britain".

As a regular attender on the cross benches, she might find herself among the group of hard-working peers who will be granted life peerages, in parallel with their hereditary titles, to continue to sit.

However, if the long-term intention is to produce a democratic and representative chamber, a reforming administration might do well to recall the preamble of the 1911 Parliament Act, the most significant reform of the 20th century passed by Asquith and Lloyd George, which envisaged the abolition of the Lords and its replacement "constituted on a popular basis" at some future date. Eighty-six years later the Lords is alive and well.

■ Election 97 coverage continues on pages 12 and 13









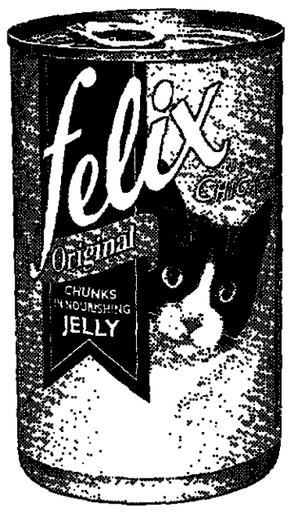
☐ Henry George Reginald Molyneux Herbert, 7th Earl of Carnarvon, KBE, KCVO; motto *Ung Je Serviray (One I Will Serve)*. Aged 73; educated at Eton; late lieutenant in Royal Horse Guards; married Jean Margaret Wallop 1956; two sons, one daughter. Member of the Jockey Club; formerly Deputy Lieutenant of Hampshire and President of Hampshire County Cricket Club. Heir: Lord Porchester.



☐ John Richard Attlee, 3rd Earl of Attlee; motto *Labor Omnia Vincit* (Labour Conquers All). Aged 40; educated at Stowe; married Celia Jane Plummer 1993. Succeeded to title in 1991; only son of 2nd Earl, Martin Richard Attlee, formerly assistant public relations officer (southern region) British Rail. Grandfather, Clement Richard Attlee, former Prime Minister, was created earl in 1955



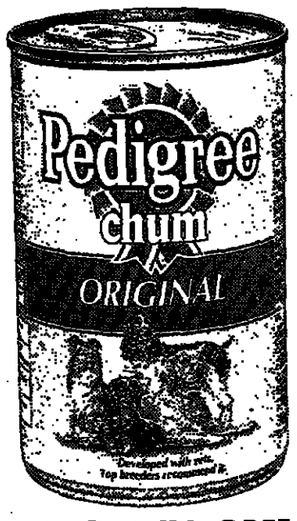
☐ Margaret of Mar, Countess of Mar; daughter of 30th Earl; motto *Pans Plus* (Think More). Aged 56; married Edwin Noel Artiss 1959 (dissolved 1976), John Leslie Salton 1976 (dissolved 1981), John H. Jenkin 1982; one daughter, the Mistress of Mar, by first marriage. Lay member of Immigration Appeal Tribunal, president of Elderly Accommodation Counsel. Heir: Mistress of Mar



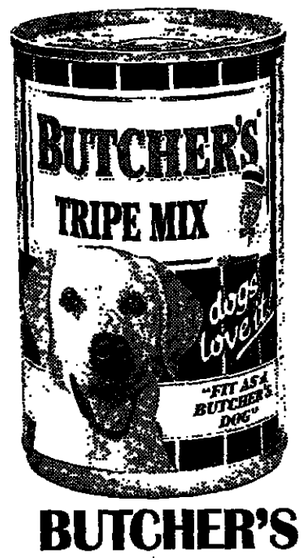
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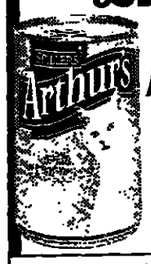
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Anti-abortion party TV broadcast to show dead foetuses

BY EMMA WILKINS



Quintavalle: confident that video will be uncut

ANTI-ABORTIONISTS yesterday threatened legal action if broadcasters refuse to show an election video featuring graphic footage of dead human foetuses.

The Prolife Alliance, which is entitled to one five-minute party election broadcast, claimed the shocking video was no worse than scenes broadcast on television recently from Rwanda and Bosnia. The film will be viewed over the next few days by an editorial policy unit at the BBC and by producers from ITV, Channel 4 and Channel 5. All material broacast must conform with standards of taste and decency set by the BBC and the Independent Television Commision.

The proposed broadcast shows remains of aborted embryos at varying stages of development. The remains were found dumped outside an abortion clinic in Houston, Texas, according to the Alliance. Bruno Quintavalle, director of the Alliance, said he was confident the video would be shown uncut.

"There are standards on taste and decency but if any censorship is attempted we believe we have strong grounds for objecting. We have lawyers who will take it further," he said. "I think it'll be difficult to have an objection to this film."

Mr Quintavalle, 25, whose mother runs the anti-abortion pressure group Life, admitted that the film would not be suitable viewing for children and said he hoped it would be broadcast after 9pm. The BBC is required not to broadcast programmes that "include anything which offends against good taste or decency or is likely to encourage or incite crime ... or be offensive to public feeling".

The ITC said it was up to ITV, Channel 4 and Channel 5 to decide whether the video breached guidelines on taste. ITV said: "We haven't seen the film yet but all programmes have to conform with the ITC's guidelines."

The Prolife Alliance is entitled to make one five-minute broadcast because it is fielding more than 50 candidates in the general election. The rules governing election broadcasts are established by the Committee on Party Political Broadcasts which is made up of MPs and broadcasters.

The Alliance, which is opposed to all abortions, was accused of "sensationalism" by the Birth Control Trust. Ann Furendi, director of the charity which gives advice on contraception, said: "It is unlikely that very many people will decide to vote on any single issue. Screening this video is likely to turn people away rather than attract votes."

The Alliance, which was founded last November, received a blow this month when Mohamed Al Fayed, chairman of Harrods, withdrew a pledge of financial support after protests outside the store by pro-choice groups. The Alliance said its campaign was funded entirely by individuals and would cost less than £100,000.

It is a secular organisation that has no "overt association" with any religious group, although many members are Catholic.

The Alliance is fielding candidates in seats including those of the Heritage Secretary Virginia Bottomley, the Scottish Secretary Michael Forsyth and John Prescott, the Labour deputy leader.

Ken Livingstone, the Labour MP whose Brent East seat will see a challenge from the Alliance, said the American film was "inappropriate" and showing it would be counterproductive. Ann Winterton, Tory MP for Congleton, distanced herself from the Alliance but said it was right for viewers to see such films.

At a preview of the film in London yesterday Mr Quintavalle insisted that journalists watch shots of an abortion. Those scenes will be cut from the proposed broadcast.



John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, preparing to board his campaign coach in Bristol yesterday morning

Labour launches the Prescott Express

BY POLLY NEWTON
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Prescott Express, carrying Labour's deputy leader on his 10,000-mile tour of marginal constituencies, took to the road yesterday. John Prescott boarded the red and black coach in Bristol after taking a rail trip round Labour's target seats in Devon and Cornwall on Tuesday.

The campaign bus, equipped with a mobile office and emblazoned with the slogan "It's good to vote", will take the deputy Labour leader as far north as Inverness. Mr Prescott, dubbed "Mr Motivator" by Tony Blair after GMTV's roving fitness instructor, said: "It is a high-profile campaign. I aim to tell people about this election and how important it is to vote. I am looking forward to meeting as many people as possible — on council estates and in towns and cities."

The Conservatives will use a British Midland 737 passenger jet to take John Major, his soapbox, and assorted journalists to and from constituencies some distance from London. A "battle bus" from the Wallace Arnold coach company will ferry Mr Major around once he has arrived at his destination. Both the plane and the coach are fitted with high-tech equipment to ensure Mr Major is kept in touch with his campaign team at Conservative Central Office and with officials in Downing Street.

Sir Michael Bishop, chief executive of British Midland and a long-time Tory supporter, said he had been approached by Central Office just after Christmas and asked if the company had an aircraft available for campaigning. "The aircraft is being provided on an agreed commercial basis," he said. British Midland provided the Conservatives with a plane during the 1992 election campaign.

Unlike Mr Major, Mr Blair has yet to make use of his battle bus, on which journalists will accompany him. On the campaign visits he has made since the election was announced, to London and Birmingham, journalists have made their own travel arrangements.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, is expected to use his battle bus for the first time on Monday. He will be flying to some destinations during the campaign: many of the Liberal Democrats' target seats are in far-flung parts of the country, from Cornwall to Scotland.

Cup of tea may land hopeful in hot water

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

CANDIDATES are to face greater scrutiny of their election expenses than ever before after a decision to increase campaign spending limits.

The uprating was approved by an Order in Parliament this week, and with such a lengthy election campaign, candidates will be under great pressure to stay within the limits.

Parties have tended to turn a blind eye to campaign funding in recent by-elections, but the fevered atmosphere of this general election will keep candidates and agents on their guard. The election of any candidate who overspends during a campaign can be declared void.

The new rules allow someone fighting an average-size seat with 60,000 constituents to spend about £8,325. Donations from people such as Paul Sykes, the millionaire businessmen, who has set up a £500,000 fund for Tory candidates opposed to the single currency, are not barred. But the amount must be included within the limit.

The largest seat is the Isle of Wight, with 102,000 voters. Candidates there will be able to spend about £10,600 each on their campaign; in the Western Isles, with 25,000 voters, the total sum will be about £6,355. Each candidate is allowed to spend £4,965 and may then add to that 5.6p for every voter in the constituency if it is a county seat, or 4.2p per voter if it is a borough.

Limits for by-elections have also gone up, from £18,572 plus 20.8p per voter in a county seat, or 15.8p per voter in a borough seat, to £19,863 plus 22.2p in county seats and 16.9p in boroughs.

Election campaigns are a tricky period for would-be MPs. One of the main difficulties is that candidates can rarely buy as much as a cup of tea or a drink or even a sandwich for anyone during the campaign. "Treating" — providing food, drink or entertainment to influence a voter or voters — is forbidden as a corrupt practice.

A former MP said last night that he would not even buy drinks for his campaign team in case the sum was included in his election expenses.

Blair accuses Tories of complacency over young jobless

BY JOHN O'LEARY AND JILL SHERMAN

TONY BLAIR accused the Government of complacency over unemployment yesterday, predicting soaring welfare bills in spite of the recent improvement in the jobless figures if firm action was not taken to put young people to work.

The Labour leader, on a visit to the Automotive training centre in Birmingham, said people were rightly suspicious of government statistics which showed a drop of 68,000 out of work last month. Although many people were no longer eligible to claim benefit, the figures were still far higher than when the Conservatives came to office.

"Ministers are far too complacent about this," Mr Blair said. "They are getting the figures down, but often by changing the way they calculate the numbers." Labour would concentrate on improving the skills of the workforce and harnessing technology to give people genuine jobs. "The message we want to get across is that if we carry on with these high levels of structural unemployment, which don't show up in the figures a lot of the time, we will end up with soaring welfare bills."

Mr Blair promised an expansion of training centres such as the one he visited. He praised trainees' communication skills, which he said would improve their employment prospects together with their new qualifications.

The trainees, in turn, gave Mr Blair an enthusiastic reception, including a spontaneous round of applause in the work's canteen.

Andrew Stevenson, a 19-year-old trainee in vehicle body repairs, said he had been persuaded to vote Labour. "He came across as very down to earth and determined to do what he promises." The training centre, part of Handsworth College, has up to 800 trainees a week taking vocational qualifications for the car industry.

Mr Blair later returned to Westminster to rally the Parliamentary Labour Party claiming that all wings were now united.

Speaking at the PLP's last meeting before the election he said: "It is an historic and exciting time for the Labour Party and we all hope that this is the last time that we will be meeting here in the House of Commons as an Opposition party, after 18 long years."

Mr Blair said he firmly believed in the changes he had brought about since he became leader in July 1994 and he thanked those who had been less enthusiastic but had still supported him.

He described party left-wingers as "team players" and said old and new Labour were now pulling together. The Tories were now the party of division and Labour Party the "party of the united". The Tories' inability to run their party made voters doubt their ability to run the country.

He told MPs that the Tories had twice as much money to spend on their campaign as Labour. Party managers estimate that the Conservatives have £30-£40 million in campaign funds while Labour has £10m-£15 million.

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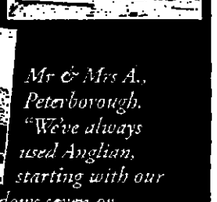
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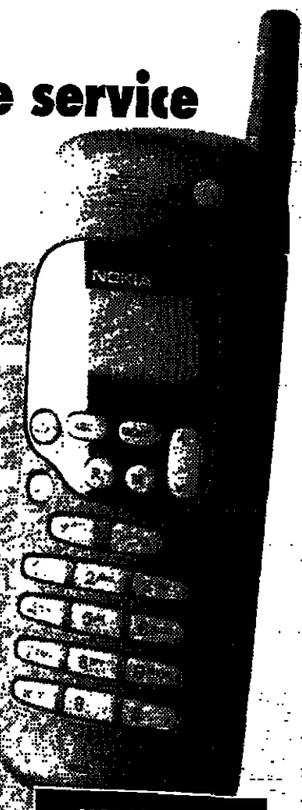
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Suffragette MP inspires Major's soapbox stand

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NANCY ASTOR, the American-born firebrand of the women's suffrage movement, inspired John Major's electioneering style. The Prime Minister expressed his admiration yesterday for the sharp-tongued campaigner as he described his preference for her style of marketplace campaigning rather than engaging in television banter.

Mr Major disclosed his hankering for a bygone age of electioneering three days after he accepted Tony Blair's challenge to take part in Britain's first televised party leaders' debate.

In a discussion with 40 public school pupils, Mr Major expanded on the thinking that has led him to use a soapbox. His campaign style "used to be the way of politics before television and radio interfered and turned it into a contest on the box in the corner of the living room. I prefer the rumbustious nature of our politics, and so did Nancy Astor."

Lady Astor, whom he described a "formidable lady in every respect", sat as an MP for more than 25 years after becoming the first woman to take a seat in the Commons, in 1919. She had a reputation as a political volcano, exploding intermittently on a range of issues ranging from women's pay to the "mumbo-jumbo" of those who sat in the Lords. Mr Major enthusiastically regaled his audience with a tale of Lady Astor's put-down to a farmer who tried to catch her out by asking her how many toes a pig had. She replied: "Take off your boots and count your toes."



John Major yesterday and Nancy Astor, the "formidable lady" whose style he so admired

But the Prime Minister, who on the opening day of campaigning went on a walkabout in Luton that came close to mayhem, yesterday chose the more genteel surroundings of Pangbourne College, the 375-pupil school in Berkshire.

Mr Major chatted to pupils who demonstrated a range of outdoor pursuits taught at the school, which traditionally provides recruits for the Merchant and Royal Navies. He seemed intrigued by a device intended to instil a sense of unity and leadership. Eight pupils attempted to walk with their feet strapped to the same pair of ski-style planks, using a process of cooperation and communication. The Prime Minister did not ask for a set to foster Tory team spirit.

Less successful in public relations terms was the school's decision to stage a mock rescue of a pupil left hanging from a tree. The stunt revived memories of a tragedy four years ago, when a 16-year-old pupil at the school hanged himself from a tree at his home after complaining of bullying.

Although the visit offered the Prime Minister an early break from the hurly-burly of soapbox campaigning, he took the opportunity to attack Labour's education policies after the party had forced ministers to drop measures aimed at increasing selection by schools. "Now I'm very sorry they didn't go through, but I do think it heightens the threat to choice and diversity in schools that a Labour government would pose."

He seized on the college's provision of 32 assisted places as indicating another key difference between the two main parties. "I have no doubt the Labour Party would strangle the assisted places, were they in government."

Later the Prime Minister gave lessons on leadership to the pupils. Answering their questions, he said: "Leadership is not about striking attitudes. It's about examining a problem and saying to yourself, 'How do I solve it? And how do I persuade people my solution is right?'

"Often it means doing things people will dislike. That has been the fate of prime ministers and service leaders since recorded time. If you are concerned about tomorrow's headlines and the way it looks, you may give the impression you are leading, but you won't be. You are just following fashion. Try to bring people with you if you can, but if you can't, go ahead and do it anyway."



Mr Ashdown trying his hand at diablo yesterday at a school in southwest London

Ashdown revs up for early advantage

BY POLLY NEWTON
POLITICAL REPORTER

PADDY Ashdown will hit the election trail in his "battle bus" on Monday, launching the Liberal Democrats' campaign in earnest despite a plea earlier this week to other party leaders to "calm down" until nearer polling day.

The Liberal Democrat leader plans to be on the road every day next week except Good Friday. By beginning before Easter instead of waiting until after the break, Mr Ashdown hopes to win some early publicity for his party.

He will also be out and about in the West Country at the end of this week, campaigning in his own Yeovil constituency on Friday and in Taunton on Saturday.

On Tuesday, Mr Ashdown said that the public would be "bored to death" and "turned off in droves" by a six-week campaign. He said the Liberal Democrats would enter the fray "in good time".

The party's strategy of concentrating time and resources almost exclusively on the seats it believes are winnable will take Mr Ashdown to either end of the country during the election campaign.

But despite being the oldest of the three main party leaders, Mr Ashdown, at 56, has a reputation as the most energetic. Aides say his Forces background left him with a lot of stamina and an ability to get by on very little sleep.

Fiasco casts doubt over future of self-regulation

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The shambles over the "cash-for-questions" report is about much more than the future of a few Tory MPs. It is really over whether the House of Commons is any longer fit or capable of regulating its own affairs.

Ever since the battles with the Crown during the 17th century, the Commons has been jealous of its privileges. These have never been absolute. In the first half of the 19th century, the House spent much time on petitions over disputed elections. These were decided by the House itself, in much the same interminable and fractious way that privilege cases have recently been. But after 1868 these were transferred to election courts under High Court judges. The number of petitions anyway fell because of new laws against corrupt election practices and with the introduction of the secret ballot.

The same issues are now involved in the debate over self-regulation and the declaration of interests. The old system relied on the convention that "good chaps know how to behave". But this broke down during the 1970s and 1980s in response to the growth of commerical lobbying and the changing character of MPs. Members were no longer sure what was acceptable, and that allowed a few, probably a very few, to abuse the rules on declaration of interest which developed in the mid-1970s in response to the Poulson scandal. Not only was there uncertainty over the rules (and in some cases deliberate abuse of them), but the machinery for considering complaints proved to be cumbersome, unfair and often partisan.

The Nolan inquiry of two years ago was a classic exercise in conservative reformism, an attempt to repair and revive what it acknowledged was a defective system. The report argued that "because parliamentary privilege is important for reasons entirely unconnected with the standards of conduct of individual Members of Parliament, we believe that it would be highly desirable for self-regulation to continue".

The committee argued that it was therefore essential that "the resolutions of the House should be regarded as binding by all Members, and should be firmly, promptly and fairly enforced". The report proposed a new code of conduct, restrictions on the outside activities of MPs and a streamlined disciplinary procedure with a new, smaller Standards and Privileges Committee replacing two larger committees. This has involved the appointment of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, responsible to the House but with an independent status. The principle of self-regulation has been preserved since the new committee still recommends how complaints should be handled with final decisions being taken, as before, on the floor of the House.

The new system has been under way for less than 18 months. Several minor complaints have been dealt with smoothly and Sir Gordon Downey, the Commissioner, has, in practice, developed considerable authority of his own. But the "cash-for-questions" affair and all its many ramifications have put strains on the time and resources of both Sir Gordon and the committee. This can partly be regarded as a one-off because of the bizarre nature of the whole Al-Fayed/Rowland affair. But the delays and disputes also raise doubts over whether self-regulation is any longer credible and workable.

After the election, the Nolan committee will review how its proposals are working. At the least it should consider strengthening Sir Gordon's operation and introducing an independent element onto the Standards and Privileges Committee. But this may not be enough. The rules may have to be put on a statuory basis adjudicated by an outside court, like elections.

PETER RIDDELL

Every child 'needs an e-mail address'

BY ADAM FRESCO

EVERY child over the age of nine should have his own e-mail address, according to a Labour Party panel.

The report by group of businessmen and experts, under the leadership of Dennis Stevenson, chairman-elect of the Pearson Group, says much needs to be done if schools are to take full advantage of future possibilities; the state of information technology in schools is "primitive and not improving".

Labour has pledged to use Millennium Fund cash to help to improve teacher training in information technology, but the Stevenson report says that information technology in schools is so important that "the level of funding allocated must be whatever it takes to get it right".

The priority is not re-equipping schools with hardware so much as improving teacher training and fostering the development of educational software. "A sudden explosion of hardware at the moment would be counter-productive in view of the current state of skills and confidence among many teachers and the lack of relevant software," the report adds.

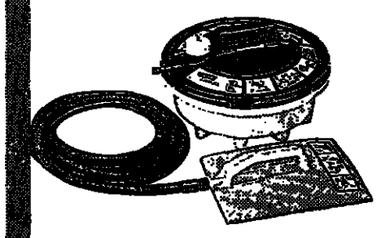
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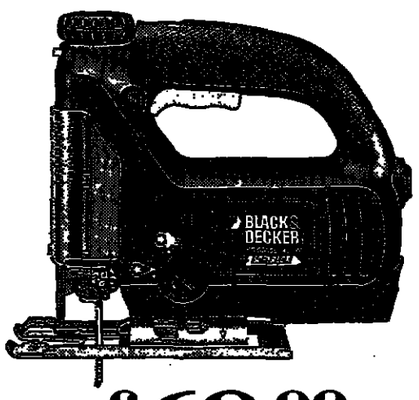
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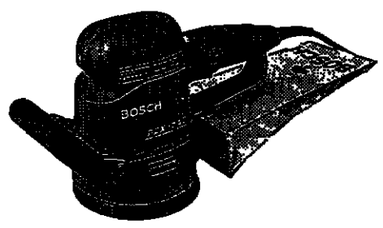


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Yeltsin daughter acts as power broker

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

ATYANA DYACHENKO, the younr daughter of President Yeltsin and e most powerful voice behind the emlin throne, played a key role in curing the appointment of Boris emtsov, the popular reformist gover- of Nizhny Novgorod, to a top sition in the new Russian Govern- ent, it was reported yesterday.

The influential *Komsomolskaya avda* said that Ms Dyachenko, who nerged as her father's closest aide uring last year's presidential election mpaign, travelled to Nizhny Novgo- d, an industrial centre on the River olga, and spent five hours with Mr emtsov in an effort to persuade him accept the job of First Deputy Prime inister with special responsibility for cial reform, the regions and anti- onopoly legislation.

In an interview with the newspaper, r Nemtsov confirmed that he had eld talks with a close relative of the esident, although he declined no ame Ms Dyachenko and insisted that had only agreed to accept the post ter speaking to Mr Yeltsin personal- . Many commentators have escribed Mr Nemtsov's new job as a oison chalice, noting that he will bear rect responsibility for the very prob- ms that the Government has hitherto emonstrably failed to cope with, in particular the task of breaking the deadlock over non-payment of pensions and wages — a debt that amounts to more than £6 billion.

He will also have to initiate a major shake-up in the state bureaucracy, in order to cleanse it of entrenched corruption and gross inefficiency, as well as take on some of the most powerful figures in the country to break down the state monopolies.

Mr Nemtsov conceded that in accepting the job he may have committed *political suicide*. "I was fully aware of the consequences of my decision," he told the newspaper. "It is a chance to transform the situation in the country, *albeit at the cost of my political future*."

He said he had secured a pledge from Mr Yeltsin to be given two clear years to succeed. "That is very important. To work without the trust of the President, particularly in those areas where there are mountains of intrigue, in the criminal world, in the corrupt bureaucracy, without having the support of the President, now that would be real suicide."

Mr Nemtsov is seen as a natural ally of his fellow First Deputy Prime Minister, Anatoli Chubais, a radical market reformer whose past privatisation policies have made him a bête noir of Communist and nationalist hardliners. Unlike Mr Chubais, however, Mr Nemtsov enjoys huge personal popularity on the record of his achievements in Nizhny Novgorod, seen as a *bastion of regional power and fertile* ground for investment.

In harness with Mr Chubais, Mr Nemtsov would appear to represent a considerable threat to the political hold of Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, a solid, plodding figure who has taken a far more cautious attitude to the future of market reform and, *despite his firm loyalty to Mr Yeltsin, is* thought to share common cause with some opposition leaders.



Dyachenko: spent five hours persuading Boris Nemtsov

GRIGORY DUKOR / REUTER



One of a group of Russian Communists, some with posters of Stalin, outside the American Embassy in Moscow during a protest against Nato expansion

Kremlin set to exploit summit stage

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN HELSINKI

A BUOYANT and revitalised President Yeltsin sets off today on his first foreign trip in nearly a year, determined to re-establish Russia's presence on the world stage.

Despite pressing issues over Nato's expansion into Eastern Europe and nagging economic and social problems at home, the Helsinki summit, which officially begins this evening, will be as much about image as substance.

For the Russian leader, who has been absent largely because of illness for most of the past eight months since his re-election, the Finnish capital will provide the perfect platform to serve notice that he is very much back in power.

President Yeltsin's illness triggered a fierce succession battle among potential leaders and led to power struggles within his Government. The impression of a rudderless Russia sparked an open debate abroad about the post-Yeltsin era and who the West should back in the event of a leadership contest.

Now a fitter and alert Mr Yeltsin has regained the initiative, injecting fresh reformist talent into his Cabinet and serving notice to the West that Russia will not allow itself to be pushed around.

Leading article, page 25

Bill and Boris help Finns to rediscover a nice little earner

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN HELSINKI

NO WONDER they keep coming back. Helsinki is the perfect summit venue — prosperous, discreet, efficient, well practised in the art of East-West diplomacy and keeping the Russians happy. It almost seems like the good old days, when the Finns made a fortune as Moscow's window on the world and neutrality was a nice little earner.

Light snow was falling yesterday, and with temperatures well below zero there was a nostalgic touch of the old Cold War. Russo-American summits have become routine, and Mr Clinton has *now had 11 meetings with Mr* Yeltsin. But the Bill and Boris show was getting a little too informal for the connoisseurs: shirtsleeve peacemaking in Sharm el-Sheikh and reminiscences amid the autumn splendour of Roosevelt's one-time home in Hyde Park.

This time, at least, things are as they used to be. The agenda is arms control, nuclear weapons and the evils of Nato. Both sides are talking about a "difficult" meeting, threatening each other with communiqué clauses and insisting they will defend their nations' interests.

The health issue is also back: one leader, vigorous, rumbustious and flushed with the political daring of having just reshuffled his team is meeting another who has difficulty moving and appears as paralysed abroad as he is at home. Still, Finnish doctors are renowned for their skill and discretion, and several will be standing by in case Mr Clinton's tendon takes a turn for the worse.

Summitry has become a speciality for the Finns. Journalists' kits have been updated, limousine routes cleared, hotels commandeered and trams are again flying the little flags that last fluttered when Presidents Bush and Gorbachev arrived for a hastily arranged meeting in 1990 on the Gulf crisis.

The high point for Finnish diplomacy was more than 20 years ago when this country played host to 35 European nations who spent weeks negotiating the Helsinki accords. In 1975 heads of state from all the signatories arrived for one of the biggest summits yet — which was to make Helsinki part of the international diplomatic vocabulary.

They came back again, a different cast and a larger group, 20 years later to reaffirm these basic documents on human rights and European stability.

How to vote if you are away from home, ill or disabled.

The General Election has been called for 1 May 1997. Some people will be away from home or unable to attend their polling stations for other reasons. If this applies to you – **or if you've moved home since 10 October 1996** – apply for a postal or proxy vote today.

Many areas in *England* will also have local government elections on 1 May. Even if you already have a postal or proxy vote for these elections, this will not automatically give you such a vote at the general election. **Apply now if in doubt.** (You can at the same time use this form to apply for a postal or proxy vote at the local government elections; if you need one, tick the box in the form.)

WHEN TO APPLY

Fill in the form and send it by first class post (or take it by hand) to the Electoral Registration Officer for the area where you are registered as an elector.

He or she is normally based at the Council Offices. The address is in the phone book. The form **must** reach the Electoral Registration Officer no later than **5pm on 16 April 1997.**

HOW TO APPLY USING THE FORM

Part 1. Fill in part 1. Remember to give the reason why you can't vote in person. Tick the box for local government elections if you need to.

Part 2. Fill in *either* part 2a *or* part 2b. If you will be in the UK during the election period you can choose to vote by post or to appoint a 'proxy' (someone who will vote for you at your polling station). Postal ballot papers are normally sent out about a week before polling day, so make sure you take this into consideration when you decide how to vote.

If you wish to vote by post, fill in part 2a. You may not vote by post from outside the UK.

If you wish to appoint a proxy, fill in part 2b. Your proxy must be qualified to vote in the General Election. A proxy may not vote at the same election for more than two people unless they are close relatives – husband, wife, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild.

If you live in Northern Ireland you cannot use this form. You should contact your local Electoral Office.

If you need extra forms ask your Electoral Registration Officer.

Register of Electors

Application to vote by post or proxy at the General Election

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Poll District

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PART 1 **About yourself**

Your name Surname

Forenames

Present address

Postcode Telephone number(s) (if any)

Address on register This might not be your present address if you have moved house since 10 October 1996.

Reason for this application **Important-see notes on the left.** Give detailed reasons why you need an absent vote:
I cannot reasonably be expected to vote in person at my polling station at the election because –

Your Signature Date

PART 2 **Post or proxy voting?**

2a By post Read the notes on the left before you fill in **either** the By Post **or** the By Proxy section. If you choose to vote by post **give here the UK address to which the ballot paper is to be sent.**

Postcode

2b By proxy If you choose to vote by proxy give the name and address of your proxy below. *You must first make certain that the person is willing, and is allowed, to vote on your behalf – please read the notes on the left.*

Proxy's full name

Proxy's address

Postcode Proxy's relationship to you (if any)

Now sign the statement below.
I have consulted the person named above as proxy and he/she is willing and is allowed to vote on my behalf.

Signature Date

Warning **A fine of up to £5,000 can be incurred by anyone who on this application makes a statement he or she knows to be false.**
This form must reach the Electoral Registration Officer for the area where you are registered by **5pm on 16 April 1997.** There is a separate form for people who need a postal or proxy vote because of unforseen health reasons and have missed the normal closing date. Contact your Electoral Registration Officer as soon as possible if this applies to you.

Don't lose your right to vote. Closing Date 5pm 16 April 1997.

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Crack troops cross Adriatic in effort to stop influx as 'undesirables' are sent back to Tirana

Italy declares state of emergency over Albanian refugees

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN BARI

THE Italian Government yesterday declared a state of emergency throughout the country until June 30 to cope with the influx of more than 10,000 refugees from Albania.

Italian radio reported that troops and armour from the crack San Marco Brigade — the Italian equivalent of the SAS — were heading for the Albanian port of Durres in the warship *San Giusto* to secure a beachhead with the apparent aim of preventing further departures of refugees. Officials said the fleeing Albanians were being offered passages across the Adriatic by unscrupulous Albanian mafiosi.

Most of the refugees who have flooded in on leaky and overcrowded boats across the 40 miles of the Adriatic in the past week have come to southern Italy, but some are being transferred to central and northern Italian towns as makeshift refugee centres in the south fill up.

The authorities have grown increasingly alarmed over the number of "hardened criminals" whom they say have taken advantage of the exodus to enter Italy in the past few days. Yesterday's decree, issued after a two-hour crisis meeting of the centre-left Cabinet, provides for the repatriation to Albania of "unwelcome guests" who "pose a threat to public order".

They are defined as those with a criminal record in Albania and any refugees who have "caused trouble" since their arrival in Italy. Chinook helicopters of the Italian Navy yesterday ferried 300 of these "undesirables" back to Albania. Giorgio Napolitano, the Interior Minister, said Italy had planned for an influx of 3,500 immigrants, but "the wave and rhythm of arrivals from Albania have exceeded every possible forecast".

> "I am keen on computers, but there is nothing for me in Albania. I want to study here"

Lamberto Dini, the Foreign Minister, said after talks with the EU mission to Albania and the Albanian Foreign Minister, Arjan Starova, that the exodus posed "a threat to the whole of Europe".

But members of the right-wing Opposition said the Government had done "too little, too late" and Italy was in danger of being overrun.

The decree provides for emergency funding to help local authorities to set up temporary shelters. But officials made clear that the refugees would be given sanctuary only for up to two months, after which they would be expected to return home.

Elections are due in Albania in June, and Italy is to provide food aid and other help to enable the Albanian authorities to re-establish order.

Italy's hope that most of the immigrants will go home may be a forlorn one, judging by the reaction of the refugees at one of the main camps yesterday. At Bari military airfield, where a temporary town of army tents and mobile homes had sprung up since the influx began a week ago, Astrit, a 28-year-old butcher's assistant from Tirana, said: "I have a brother in Bologna and another in Pisa. I intend to join them, with my wife and children." He and his family had spent 20 hours on a broken-down fishing boat before being rescued by Italian coastguards. Did he intend to go back? "Albania has no future," he said flatly.

We were joined by a crowd of Albanian men, women and children, dressed in the blue overalls the Italian civil defence authorities have provided. None admitted to having paid Albanian mafiosi for the crossing; all claimed to have lost everything in the collapsed pyramid schemes that sparked the unrest.

What if President Berisha was defeated in the elections in June, and replaced by an opposition leader such as Fatos Nano? "They are all the same," they roared in unison. "Hoxha [the late Communist dictator], Berisha, Nano — it makes no difference."

Klodi, a 19-year-old economics student from Vlore and the son of an Albanian naval officer, told me he was already homesick. But, like the others, he wanted to stay. Dressed smarter than the rest in a leather jacket, he was the kind of young Albanian — bright, articulate, fluent in English and Italian — whom Mr Berisha must have hoped would form the nucleus of a new and modern Albanian elite. "I am keen on computers," he said. "But there is nothing for me in Albania. I want to study here."

Bari residents still have vivid memories of the even bigger exodus in 1991, when tens of thousands of Albanians fled after the collapse of communism. At a refugee centre in the rundown port area, in the shadow of Bari's magnificent seaside Norman fortress, charity workers said the situation was under control compared with the influx six years ago.

PAOLO COCCO / REUTER



Two Albanian children shelter in a blanket provided by the Italian Red Cross in Brindisi yesterday after being rescued by the coastguard

'Terrorists' forced to fly home

BY TOM WALKER

ALBANIANS unceremoniously dumped back at Tirana airport yesterday said that they had been forced to sign documents they could not understand by the Italian authorities.

When they were later handed Albanian translations, they learnt that they had been branded "terrorists" and a "threat to public order"; by then, however, they were being herded on to Chinook twin-rotor transport helicopters and flown back across the Adriatic.

Yesterday three helicopter loads arrived in the morning and another four in the afternoon, returning a total of about 300 reluctant Albanians. "They said we are terrorist people. I was never a terrorist in my life," said Shpetim Arifaj, 31, who claimed to have an MA in computer sciences from Dublin University. "We put our signatures on pieces of paper not knowing what they were. Later they gave us papers in Albanian saying we were terrorists. None of us was a terrorist."

After landing at the recently secured airport, the deportees were led at a jog across the ground by police and soldiers — a show of strength for the international cameras. Albanian state television, which rivals its Balkan counterpart in Serbia for misinformation, repeated the warnings not to take the perilous boat trip to Italy, and did its best to convey the impression of peace breaking out all over the country.

Children in Kruje, 20 miles north of Tirana, were shown dancing round a flower-bedecked Kalashnikov, while in the southeast students in Librazhd were shown on a "peace march" against war and violence. Arben Malaj, the new Minister of Finance, meanwhile appealed to Albanian businessmen to pay their taxes. The state coffers, he explained, were empty.

Violence halts work of Mother Teresa's nuns



Tom Walker in Scutari reports on the thuggery that is preventing 14 sisters from feeding 150 hungry families

THE charitable work of the world's most famous Albanian, Mother Teresa, has come to a halt in her homeland as a humanitarian catastrophe draws nearer.

Nuns in Scutari, the north Albanian base for the Missionaries of Charity, have described their ordeal last week as rebels took over the town and a fire threatened to engulf their compound.

The sisters were saved by the prompt action of local priests and armed guards sent by the Roman Catholic Church. However, with Scutari now cut off from its vital supply routes to Montenegro, food prices have trebled and many staples are unavailable. "We have always visited the poorest of the poor, but now we cannot even give them their ration," Sister Maria-Goretti, the convent's Mother Superior, said in the shadow of the destroyed buildings. "This is the devil's work. We are only still here because of the Lord's intervention."

The 14 sisters at the mission look after 25 handicapped children, who have been terrified by the violence that grips Scutari each night. When the rebellion began last Wednesday night, the bank behind the sisters' compound was looted and set alight, and soon two sides of the small courtyard were ablaze.

"They were stealing, burning and shooting in the air," Sister Maria-Goretti said. "We had to throw the children out into the street as the fire drew in. We thought we were the next building to go."

Local Jesuits sheltered the children for the night and the brothers of Mother Teresa's order, from nearby Bushat, have helped the sisters to bring the mission's life back to normal. However, the food the sisters deliver to 150 families — oil, sugar, pasta, flour and other staples — has run out. "We only have enough for the children now," Sister Maria-Goretti said. "We have to think ahead and there could be a great hunger here."

Sebastian, the order's superior in Bushat, said a "miracle" had saved the sisters. "There was absolute chaos here. They destroyed far more than in the South."

Among the seven brothers in Bushat is Brother Simon, 39, from East Peckham in Kent, formerly a captain in The Royal Green Jackets. "I remember the nuncio (Vatican ambassador) telling us that the end of communism is like cutting the head off a snake," he said. "The tail still wags and what we have seen is the final breakdown of previous forms of control here."

Brother Simon, whose C-registration Ford Transit van is the sisters' only means of escape from Scutari, said that prayer had helped to prevent the total collapse of Albania last week. "We could have been plunged into a maelstrom of violence."

Yesterday the brothers celebrated the feast of St Joseph with an ordination at Scutari's Catholic cathedral, the largest in the Balkans but used as a volleyball court under Enver Hoxha, the former dictator.

Outside, even though uniformed police were back on the streets, Scutari encapsulated the poverty and unease of northern Albanian towns. A dead horse blocked the road to the cathedral and leeks were the only vegetables available. Uncollected rubbish rotted on the pavements. Children sold clips of Kalashnikov ammunition for $5 (£3) apiece.



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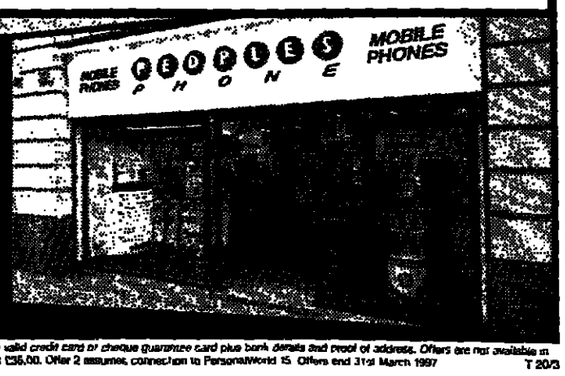
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Gore faces unexpected rivals in White House race

Cash scandals have sullied the image of the Vice-President and cast doubt on his presidential nomination in 2000, reports Bronwen Maddox from Washington

UNTIL this month, it was hard to imagine that Al Gore, the American Vice-President, would face serious rivals from within his party in his race for the White House in 2000.

However, the campaign fundraising scandals have tarnished his image and encouraged opponents to think the unthinkable: President Clinton's designated successor is vulnerable. The race to become the Democratic candidate for President is now on.

At least four contenders are preparing to fight for the nomination: Richard Gephardt, the House Majority Leader, Senator John Kerry from Massachusetts, Senator Bob Kerrey from Nebraska and Bill Bradley, a former New Jersey senator. Senator Paul Wellstone from Minnesota is also reported to be mulling over his chances.

The contest will open up the barely-concealed rift in the Democratic Party. New Democrats, headed by Mr Clinton and Mr Gore, march to the President's refrain that the era of big government is over. Old Democrats still pledge allegiance to extensive government welfare and health programmes. They support the minimum wage and oppose measures to liberalise trade, such as the Nafta pact with Mexico and Canada.

The depth of the division was reflected in last year's vote on welfare reform legislation. Democrats in the House of Representatives voted by 98 in favour and 98 against; just weeks later, Senate Democrats split 23-23 on the same question.

Two factors will determine which side of the party dominates the next race for the White House: the state of the economy in 2000, and the legacy of the campaign finance dispute. If the economy is weak, the old Democrats, proclaiming "we told you so", may be able to rebuild their political clout. If economic growth is still strong, and Mr Clinton has walked through the fire of investigations with as little injury as he appears to have done in the Whitewater case, then Mr Gore's candidacy looks safe. If the economy is healthy, but the Clinton-Gore team is tarred with the fundraising scandal, then the new Democrats will find their way clear to challenge the Vice-President.

At this point, Mr Gore's most prominent rival is Mr Gephardt. A moderate at the start of his 25-year career, he is now associated with the old Democrat wing of the party. He called welfare reform "a dangerous step in the wrong direction" and attacked the North American Free Trade Agreement; he opposes Mr Clinton's plan to expand the agreement to other countries in Latin America.

However, Mr Gephardt's problem is that he is perceived as a nearly-man, cautious not charismatic. He ran for President in 1988 but his campaign fizzled out after the New Hampshire primary. Two years ago, when Republicans won control of the House, Newt Gingrich's vigour as Speaker upstaged Mr Gephardt's performance. Unless Democrats regain control of the House next year, Mr Gephardt may not have the chance to reverse that image.

In the past few weeks, Mr Wellstone has also emerged as a possible old Democrat challenger. However, Mr Gore's aides fear that more dangerous rivals could emerge from the new Democrat wing of the party.

John Kerry, a Vietnam veteran, has shaken off some of his reputation for aloofness and arrogance, but his marriage to Teresa Heinz, the heiress to the pickle and ketchup empire, has proved an uncertain political blessing. Her estimated fortune of almost $800 million (£500 million) provoked sharp comments from fellow Democrats.

The appeal of Bob Kerrey of Nebraska, another Vietnam veteran, is hard to assess as he has made his independence from the Democratic Party his main pitch, even though he is chairman of the Democratic campaign committee in the Senate.

Bill Bradley, the former New Jersey senator and basketball star, is also reckoned to have charisma. He has strongly criticised liberal elements in the Democratic Party but is believed to have limited influence.

Gingrich's former allies accuse him of betrayal

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE fortunes of Newt Gingrich, already at a low ebb, plummeted still further yesterday after conservative politicians accused their House Speaker of betraying the crown jewel of his Republican "revolution".

His proposal to shelve demands for tax relief as a compromise to balance the federal budget by 2002 left Mr Gingrich in an increasingly fragile state within his party. And it divided Republican budget leaders as they met at the White House before President Clinton's departure for Helsinki yesterday.

Mr Gingrich has become a symbol for Republican inaction since President Clinton's re-election and a constant reminder of the dervish-like activity that marked his accession to the Speaker's chair in 1995.

His latest budget proposal, immediately hailed by Mr Clinton as an opportunity for bipartisan agreement, was viewed by conservatives on Capitol Hill as another desperate attempt by Mr Gingrich to improve his popularity among the electorate.

It places him in direct confrontation with Dick Armey, the House majority leader, who is seen as a possible successor, and Trent Lott, the Senate majority leader, both of whom are opposed to any capitulation over tax reductions.

"It is a signal that the Speaker is willing to jettison the tax cut in the budget reconciliation Bill that will be passed and signed by the President," said David McIntosh, an Indiana Republican, in a letter signed by 32 House colleagues. "Any plan that does not include meaningful tax relief must be soundly rejected."

Conservatives are most angered by what they describe as "betrayal" by Mr Gingrich despite their backing for him when he admitted violating House ethics rules. He was formally reprimanded in January and fined $300,000 (£189,000), but was not asked to resign.

The once revolutionary firebrand is so much a shadow of his former self that he stalks the corridors of Capitol Hill almost unnoticed and often ignored. Former allies had always been wary of Mr Gingrich's wavering ideology and his ability to melt in the presence of Mr Clinton, but are said to be no longer prepared to forgive the man who engineered Republican control of the House of Representatives for the first time in 40 years. Many believe that in his attempt at compromise the Speaker is no longer acting like a conservative.

"He holds these regular meetings to define priorities and talks about the Republicans winning elections in 2000 and beyond," David Brooks, of the conservative *Weekly Standard*, said. "He has plans for the next 20 years, but not the next two weeks. It just looks like he is flailing around in search of popularity rather than personally leading the conservative movement."

Instead of tackling important issues, Mr Gingrich is seen to have concentrated on "feelgood" policies such as releasing money for family planning programmes overseas, which other Republicans view as a means of promoting abortion.

To make matters worse, he has proposed a trip to China early next month, despite concerns over human rights and the deepening fundraising controversy with its Asian connections, that has engulfed the White House and is trickling towards Capitol Hill.



Gingrich: his fortunes are continuing to fall

GREG GIBSON / AP



President Clinton, resting his injured leg, briefs the press in the White House in preparation for his meeting this week with Russia's President Yeltsin in Helsinki

WORLD IN BRIEF

'Witch' beaten to death in Russia

Moscow: A mother of six was beaten to death with a hammer in a village in Belgorod province in south Russia for suspected witchcraft, the daily newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda* reported yesterday (Robin Lodge writes).

The woman, a professional fortune-teller, was apparently attacked by two men angered by her predictions, police said. Her name has not been released. The attackers also assaulted her three elder children, and a daughter aged 14 is in intensive care. Two suspects are being questioned by police.

Charges of witchcraft have grown in the former Soviet Union, where many disaffected people have been turning to the supernatural to find comfort.

Israeli killed in Lebanon

Marjayoun: One Israeli soldier was killed and three others wounded when Muslim guerrillas attacked a patrol in southern Lebanon, sources with the South Lebanon Army said. The guerrillas fired rockets, rocket-propelled grenades and machineguns at the Israelis in Arnoun on the edge of Israel's south Lebanon occupation zone. Two of the wounded soldiers were seriously hurt. Six Israeli soldiers have been killed in Lebanon this year, and 26 wounded. *(Reuter)*

New choice for CIA chief



Washington: President Clinton has decided to nominate George Tenet, right, the current acting head of the CIA, to serve as the spy agency's Director, senior Administration officials said. "The President believes he [Tenet] is well qualified for the post," said one senior White House official. "He is more than satisfied." On Monday, Anthony Lake withdrew his nomination after harsh Senate committee confirmation hearings. *(Reuter)*

Singapore stifles stench

Singapore: The number of Singaporeans convicted for urinating in lifts fell last year to 14 from 40, the *Straits Times* said. The old sensors sealed lift doors when a puddle was detected, sometimes leading to false alarms. A new kit will improve detection since it will react only to urine. *(Reuter)*

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NEWCASTLE 0191 261 5252 — High Friars, (Monument entrance) Eldon Square
NOTTINGHAM 0115 941 9461 — Upper Mall, (Next to Boots), The Victoria Centre
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Supreme Court rejects petitions to halt work on Jewish homes in east Jerusalem

Egypt and Syria warn Israel of war risk

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

EGYPT and Syria warned Israel yesterday that it was pushing the Middle East into a new confrontation as the Supreme Court rejected two petitions to halt bulldozers constructing a settlement for 32,000 Jews in annexed east Jerusalem.

In his bluntest attack yet on Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's Prime Minister, President Mubarak of Egypt said: "If this settlement is built, this will not be the end of the whole thing. It will be the beginning of a new era of violence we would like to avoid."

The leader of Egypt, the first Arab state to make peace with Israel, added angrily: "The use of force and arrogance, the arrogance of power, will never lead to a solution at all. The issue of Jerusalem will never be solved by the use of bulldozers. This only increases problems and hatred."

With Palestinian street protests planned for tomorrow, the traditional day of Muslim prayers, and rising fears of a spark that could ignite a new Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Farouk al-Shara, Syria's Foreign Minister, issued a warning that Har Homa would lead to bloodshed on a wider scale. The Damascus press quoted him as claiming that the building of 6,500 homes — the first to be occupied in 1999 — would not succeed.

"But he [Netanyahu] might succeed in escalating tension in the region and in dragging Arabs into confrontation that he would be responsible for. The world realises that Netanyahu does not want peace but is putting the region on the verge of new wars."

Amid the mounting Arab rhetoric, including calls in the Jordanian media for the recall of Jordan's Ambassador in Tel Aviv, the official Syrian daily *Tishreen* compared Mr Netanyahu's policies with those of Hitler, "who invaded Europe, destroyed human beings, expelled people and seized their properties".

In combative mood, Mr Netanyahu, 47, flatly rejected Arab and international criticism of Tuesday's go-ahead for the building on land conquered from Jordan in 1967 and known to Arabs as Jabal Abu Ghneim. The Prime Minister said that the disputed pine-studded hillside was part of the capital of the Jewish state. "I cannot imagine any peace process under which we cannot build in our capital," he told Israel radio. "I do not agree to any peace that prevents us from building in Jerusalem."

His close political ally, Ehud Olmert, the Likud Mayor of Jerusalem and a driving force behind Har Homa, dismissed President Mubarak's warning, telling an Israeli radio reporter: "No one is in a position to dictate to Israel what we do in Jerusalem."

Describing the Israeli stance, the Tel Aviv paper *Maariv* said that the Likud Government had "gambled for the whole pot" in going ahead with Har Homa, "risking a worsening of the conflict with the Palestinians, demonstrations, terror attacks, bloodshed ... Israel is wearing a flak jacket and hoping for the best".

Its main rival, *Yediot Aharonot*, warned its readers: "The Har Homa affair could be the final faultline in relations between the Netanyahu Government and the Arafat Government. And the bulldozers will be followed by tanks."

After calling a crisis meeting with European consul-generals based in mainly Arab east Jerusalem, Faisal Husseini, the leading PLO official in Jerusalem, told reporters: "Mr Netanyahu's policy has killed the peace process."

The Israeli Prime Minister took the unusual step yesterday of publicly rejecting an American denial of his charge that Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian Authority leader, had given Islamic militants the green light to resume suicide attacks against Jewish targets. "We have solid information from the Israeli intelligence. We see contacts of the PLO with Hamas and other organisations ... If there is terrorism, we will see the Palestinian Authority as responsible."

MENAHEM KAHANA / EPA



Israeli soldiers and Palestinian demonstrators scuffle as bulldozers move in to clear the way for construction of the Har Homa settlement

Zaire in limbo as Premier is ousted

FROM SAM KILEY IN KINSHASA

ZAIRE drifted leaderless yesterday after its Prime Minister was ousted at the army's insistence and rebels, who control a fifth of the country, vowed to continue their advance.

The removal of Leon Kengo wa Dondo defied the wishes of President Mobutu and signalled an end to the ailing dictator's influence on the vast Central African nation. Members of parliament who voted to depose Mr Kengo on Tuesday said many of them had been offered financial incentives to ensure that the Prime Minister lost a vote of no confidence.

"The army had grown fed up with the political paralysis and wanted to get rid of the Government. It would have been too dangerous if they had moved openly against the Prime Minister and his Government ... so the army pushed parliament into voting against him," an MP said.

Mr Kengo arrived in Nairobi yesterday for talks on the Zaire crisis, claiming that he still had the support of the "political class". However, Zaire's state radio broadcast that he had been dismissed for "incompetence in the face of the civil war", blaming him for the army's rout by the anti-Mobutu rebels.

General Mahele Leiko Bokungo, the Chief of Staff who was jeered by soldiers when he exhorted them to fight the Democratic Alliance of Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire before Kisangani fell last weekend, insisted yesterday that he had no part in overthrowing Mr Kengo. "The army is constitutionally forbidden to take part in politics," he insisted.

By late yesterday the country was still without a Prime Minister. General Mahele, meanwhile, appealed to "the Government" to give him the means to fight the rebels, led by Laurent Kabila.

His appeal came as a rebel spokesman said they would continue advancing towards Mbuji-Mayi, the capital of the diamond-rich East Kasai province. They hoped to reach the area before soldiers who had fled there started to destroy mining installations.

Leading article, page 25

Spanish scholar finds links between Basque and Etruscan tongues

Classical Greek	Etruscan	Early Latin	Modern Roman
A	A	A	Aa
B	B	B	Bb
Γ	>	C	Cc
Δ		D	Dd
E	E	E	Ee
Θ	⊗		Ff
			Gg
H	B	H	Hh
I	I	I	Ii
			Jj
K	K	K	Kk
Λ	L	L	Ll
M	M	M	Mm
N	N	N	Nn
O	O	O	Oo

Etruscan's alphabetic links

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

EUSKERA, the tongue-twisting language of the Basques, could prove the key that unlocks the ancient secrets of Etruscan, a mysterious language that has defied all attempts to decipher it for centuries.

According to Jorge Alonso, a Spanish historian of language, Euskera and Etruscan are closely related. In a book to be published here shortly, *Descifrамiento de la lengua etrusca* (*Deciphering Etruscan*), he describes the likeness of their vocabularies and syntax, concluding that by "using Euskera as a tool", linguists should be able to translate Etruscan texts and tablets that have lain unread for millennia.

Señor Alonso's thesis should also cast new light on the origins of the Etruscans — once the inhabitants of what is now Tuscany. If their language is related to Euskera, it is likely that their origins lay in northern Africa. As Señor Alonso has written, Euskera is derived from ancient Iberian, the language spoken on the Iberian peninsula before the Romans stamped it out.

Archaeologists are certain that the Iberians came from North Africa, migrating to Spain to escape climatic changes. The question raised is: did the Etruscans, too, leave North Africa for a new home on the Italian peninsula? If their language is related to Euskera, it is not an unlikely theory.

Señor Alonso's studies were conducted at the Etruscan necropolises near Rome and Perugia. There, the startling similarity between certain Etruscan funerary inscriptions and Euskera words convinced him of a linguistic kinship. The most important proof was the Etruscan word *dule*, found in graveyards, which is virtually identical to the Euskera word *dulle*, or scythe, commonly used as a synonym for "death". Another phrase in Euskera, *Baltzur atean-nas*, meaning "I am at the gate of the river of darkness", resembles closely an inscription at an Etruscan necropolis near Perugia: *Velth-ur-a-tin-nas*.

If Euskera were to assist in cracking the language of the Etruscans, whose civilisation was at its height in the last quarter of the 6th century BC, Señor Alonso will have helped to resolve one of mankind's oldest linguistic riddles. Etruscan is a language with, until now, no known structural or historical relationship to any other. It is known to us from inscriptions, mainly epitaphs and dedications, written in an alphabet probably derived from Early Greek. It was written in the boustrophedon style, "turning like an ox ploughing", with the direction of writing alternating with each line: first right-to-left then left-to-right.

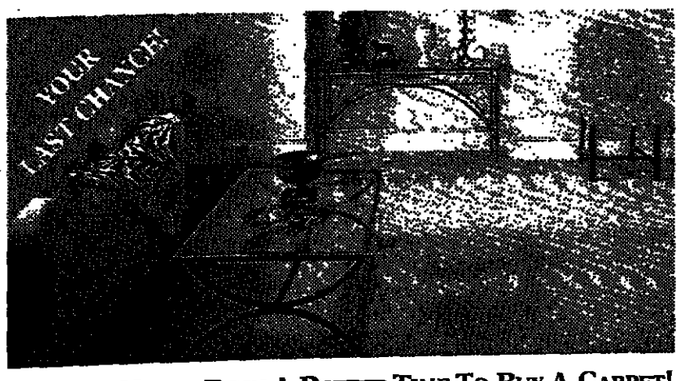
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Teargas fired as Papua mob riots over mercenaries

BY NOEL PASCOE IN PORT MORESBY, ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PAPUA New Guinea's political crisis turned violent yesterday as police fired teargas at anti-government rioters and the army continued to defy orders to free 40 foreign mercenaries it is detaining.

More than 2,000 civilians rallied outside the army barracks to denounce the Government's plan to pay the mercenaries millions of pounds to crush a long-running rebellion on the island of Bougainville. They refused to disperse until their petition for the resignation of Sir Julius Chan, the Prime Minister, within 24 hours and the expulsion of the mercenaries was accepted.

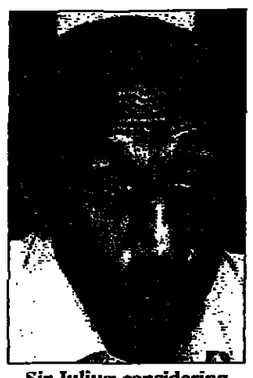
They were eventually persuaded not to march on to the Prime Minister's office and to hand the petition to Peter Yama, the Works and Transport Minister. Inside the barracks, about 1,000 soldiers staged a demonstration demanding that the mercenaries be sent home and that government corruption be exposed.

As tensions rose, about 1,000 people began looting mainly Asian-owned department stores near the barracks, forcing police to fire teargas. Soldiers also fired several shots in the air to disperse the mob. There were no reports of injuries or arrests.

The violence erupted after Brigadier-General Jerry Singirok, the defence force commander, denounced the Government on Monday. In a radio broadcast he attacked Sir Julius, his deputy and the Defence Minister for hiring mercenaries for a reputed 38 million kina (£18 million) to conduct the war in Bougainville while his men went "without food, pay or supplies". General Singirok demanded their resignations and urged the people to force them to quit.

Yesterday Australia tried to mediate in the crisis with John Howard, the Prime Minister, dispatching Philip Flood, head of the Foreign Affairs Department, and two personal emissaries to see Sir Julius. Canberra, which had all along objected to Port Moresby's plan to hire mercenaries, is hoping to persuade Sir Julius to abandon using Sandline International, the British-based company, and its South African affiliate, Executive Outcomes, which are supplying the "dogs of war".

Last night Sir Julius appeared to be backing away from the mercenary plan when he said the Cabinet might consider cancelling the contract of the "hired guns" because their security and operation had been compromised by the publicity of recent weeks. "I think we should not be too premature about making that decision. But the situation, whether you like it or not, has been compromised by the publicity. As a result of that, we may have to look at the whole situation again — the security aspects of their engagement."



Sir Julius: considering cancelling contract

He also confirmed that six of the Sandline International men had left the country, and that four more were accommodated at the Port Moresby Taurama army barracks "for their own protection".

In London, Sandline International refused to comment on whether its "advisers" had left. It said: "We are in direct contact with the Prime Minister and we are confident that the situation will be resolved amicably in the interests of the country." It added that it had no reason to believe that its personnel "are at any physical risk".

Sir Julius still faces the task of quelling the turmoil stirred by his controversial plan to hire mercenaries and the subsequent sacking of General Singirok, whose soldiers have reportedly refused to obey instructions from the Prime Minister. They had also threatened to resign en masse if their commander was not reinstated.

University students have joined the calls for the three politicians to resign, and are boycotting classes.



Mekeo tribesmen wait with Luke Tajabe, right, of the Huli Wig Men to take part in a cultural event at an Australian agricultural show

Huli Wig Men prepare to become big spenders

FROM DAVID BENTLEY IN BRISBANE

AN OIL and gas find in the southern highlands of Papua New Guinea is poised to hurl a tribe of warriors into fabulous wealth.

Tribal lands belonging to the Huli Wig Men sit on what may well turn out to be the Southern Hemisphere's richest oil and gas reserves. If drilling goes ahead, Huli landholders will receive a 2 per cent royalty for every barrel extracted.

It is hard to imagine how the Hulis, who wear red and yellow warpaint and elaborate headgear decorated with everlasting daisies, will adapt to a sudden injection of riches. Wealth is largely superfluous to the Huli Wig Men's needs. Ritualistic feuds, fought with bow and arrows, occupy daylight hours. There are casualties, but the fighting is all very gentlemanly. Warriors have been known to pause during hostilities to pose for photographs with tourists.

A newly affluent Huli may splurge on a bride, for whom the going price has risen from nine pigs to 40,000 kina (£19,500), or charter a helicopter to visit shops in the main centres. A few may acquire portable generators to operate video players in their huts or perhaps buy a four-wheel-drive vehicle to negotiate bush tracks. "Huli men are different," Ruth Dicker, who was raised in the nearby township of Tara, says. "They grow their own gardens, prepare their own food and live separately from their women. They believe women take power from them."

Meanwhile, modern decadence has surfaced. Traditionally, Huli warriors are supposed to cultivate and maintain the startling "wigs" that signify their manhood. Lately, better-off initiates have employed stand-ins to grow the cone-shaped tufts.

According to Dr Laurence Goldman, a University of Queensland anthropologist, the Hulis may be more money-wise than oil company executives think. The tribesmen, he says, are well aware of the potential bonanza beneath their feet. "They are far from stupid: that's the biggest mistake anyone can make," says Dr Goldman, who has written four books on the Huli tribe.

For example, he says, if Huli people are hired to do work associated with drilling machines, "they will argue that they are neglecting other duties of finding or preparing food and looking after children. They will seek compensation from companies for neglect of their family responsibilities."

Kabul enters dark age as windows are painted over to hide 'corrupting' women

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Taleban Islamic militia, which has banned most forms of fun and entertainment in the two thirds of Afghanistan under its control, has ordered householders to paint over windows in case unveiled women are seen from outside. It said women's faces corrupted men.

Strange orders have made Taleban the laughing stock of much of the Islamic world, although those living under its regime find life far from amusing. A recent regulation bans taxi drivers from transporting women not covered head-to-toe in a veil. Photographing people has been declared un-Islamic and incurs severe punishment, although passport pictures are exempt.

The window rules were announced on Taleban-controlled Voice of Sharia radio. Second-floor windows must be painted over to a height of 6ft because they "pose a threat to neighbours as far as Islamic *hejab* [women's dress code] is concerned", Kabul City Council said. The Attorney-General's office in the city said that women's faces were "a source of corruption for men who are not related to them".

Kabul, traditionally a liberal city — until the 1970s it was known for its discos, bars and restaurants — has been ruled by Taleban since September. Women must be fully veiled in the street and are beaten for non-compliance. They are banned from working or studying at university, consequently inflicting severe hardship on thousands of war widows who once worked on projects run by international aid agencies, which find it difficult to operate without them.

The ban on photography makes the work of press photographers all but impossible. Journalists are required to stay in a government-owned hotel at daily rates that exceed the annual incomes of most Kabul residents and they face severe curbs on their movements, being supposed to use only government-approved taxi drivers and translators. This ensures their movements can be monitored and that dissidents can never meet them safely.

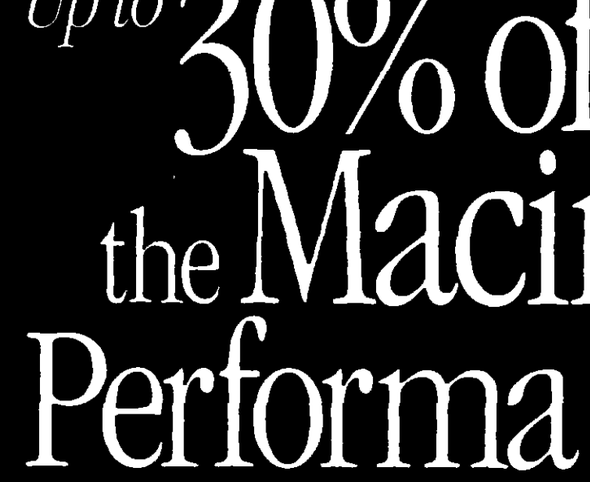
Music is illegal, unless it is religious. Kabul University has reopened, but with only male students and teachers, and there are no schools for girls.

Mufti Muhammad Masoom Afghani, the Afghan Ambassador at the Taleban-controlled Embassy in Islamabad, briefed diplomats and United Nations officials this week on efforts to combat narcotics. This was designed to counter reports that Taleban is involved in the drugs trade — which it certainly is.

Production of raw opium, refined into heroin in mobile laboratories in Afghanistan and tribal areas of Pakistan, has increased under Taleban rule, judging by satellite photographs of poppy production.

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Turning a blind eye on colony



Sir Percy, who appears not to have read the polls' verdict on Chris Patten

HONG KONG COUNTDOWN

The massacre in Beijing, not Chris Patten, soured Hong Kong's view of China, says Jonathan Mirsky

NO PRESENT-DAY resentment endures more bitterly than Sir Percy Cradock's towards Chris Patten, the Hong Kong Governor.

Sir Percy has a constant theme — that he has expounded in a book, articles, interviews and public addresses. That theme is simple: that through artful diplomacy, Britain, which held almost no cards, concluded agreements with China in 1984 and after "which should have carried the colony smoothly through the watershed of 1997 and well into the next century with stability and a fair level of democracy". However, because of "politics", Sir Percy believes that Hong Kong is now "worse off in terms of protection and democracy than it need have been".

The latest expression of his position comes in the magazine *Prospect*. However, Sir Percy, a former ambassador to Beijing and an adviser on China to Margaret Thatcher and John Major, should declare his interests. First, he directed — from London — the negotiations leading up to the 1984 Joint Declaration — which he later called "a Rolls-Royce of an agreement" and he understandably feels hard done by that this limousine will not survive the July handover. The other interest is that Sir Percy is an adviser to financial institutions with interests in China and is a director of Hong Kong's *South China Morning Post*, published by Robert Kwok who has strong connections in Beijing.

Sir Percy believes Hong Kong's fate is "the story of a bad mistake" — the "bad mistake" he sees as Mr Patten. "As a rising politician he [Patten] had his name to make ... he made instant democracy his slogan," giving Beijing a pretext for dismembering the wholly-elected Legislative Council and "repealing libertarian legislation passed without its consent".

The result, feels Sir Percy, has been five years of confrontation and the isolation of a Governor "increasingly out of touch with local public opinion". On this, Sir Percy has not read the polls; they show much support for Mr Patten.

Sir Percy gives himself away. "The Sinologues" of the Foreign Office, he recalls, once "guided" British policy in Hong Kong. Sinologues concentrate on China; to them Hong Kong was simply the last colony, over whose head Sir Percy negotiated the 1984 agreement and to which the Foreign Office said after 1984 "take it or leave it".

However, although its people are Chinese, Hong Kong is not yet China, as Sir Percy, who has only visited the place, does not know. Its culture and its politics are different.

Sir Percy glides past the Tiananmen Square killings of 1989, which "provoked a mood of emotion and revulsion". He remembers that *The Times* and *The Spectator* called for denunciations of the 1984 deal. However, the real "emotion and revulsion" were in Hong Kong, where one million marchers, who had welcomed the 1984 accord, showed their rage at the future sovereign.

That is when the situation changed. That is when the then Governor, Sir David Wilson, angered Beijing by condemning the killings and calling for the construction of a new airport to "raise morale".

Sir David promptly found himself nearly as isolated as Mr Patten is today and the airport delays were used as a stick to beat the British. Ever since, people in Hong Kong have favoured public figures labelled "black hands" in Beijing. All this began long before Mr Patten lost his seat in Bath in the general election of 1992.

Sir Percy suggests that once again we have seen "the besetting sin of British foreign policy: the incapacity to put ourselves in the shoes of the other side".

The real "other side" is Hong Kong, seen by some Foreign Office Sinologues as "a whingeing place for which diplomats have bled". Anyone who lives here, and is not one of the 100 per cent docile and silent business community, could tell him that it was the blood on the Tiananmen paving stones, not John Major and Chris Patten, who undid Sir Percy's hard work.

ROYAL NAVY



Steve and Sarah McSevich show off their son on *HMS Plover* in Hong Kong yesterday. Sam, who arrived last month, is the last baby born to a British forces couple before the handover to China

Tutu faces treatment as cancer spreads

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

ARCHBISHOP Desmond Tutu announced yesterday that his prostate cancer has spread and he will undergo a combination of hormone treatment and radiotherapy to try to check its advance.

The Nobel laureate, who underwent initial prostate surgery in January, said he had been advised by doctors in the United States that the cancer is believed to have penetrated beyond the prostate gland and that radiotherapy was now the "best option".

While he plans to maintain a "normal schedule", the news has raised concern as to how his illness will affect his work as chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. After his three-month hormone treatment in Cape Town, he will spend two months undergoing radiotherapy at an American clinic.

His absence, and fears that he may be unable to work to full capacity if his health deteriorates further, are seen as worrying developments for the commission, which is nearly halfway through its two years.

Tensions have been running high lately over its sensitive investigations, with politicians criticising its work and angry exchanges between the National Party and the African National Congress. The Archbishop has been widely praised for the delicate and precise manner in which he has dealt with many of the problems the commission has faced, and there is concern that without him the process of uncovering South Africa's bloody past could run into trouble.

Kim pins blame for food crisis on party

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

MEMBERS of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party have been rebuked by Kim Jong Il over the desperate food shortage that has left even the armed forces without supplies, a South Korean newspaper said yesterday.

"A state of anarchy is being created because of food problems. I do not know what party members are doing," Mr Kim, revered as "Dear Leader", was quoted as saying. "People are found almost everywhere scrounging for foodstuffs, and even the People's Armed Forces have not received food supplies," he said.

The criticism, reported by *Chosun Ilbo*, was made in a speech by Mr Kim, the son and political heir of North Korea's founder, Kim Il Sung, who died three years ago. The newspaper, which published scoops on last month's defection in China of Hwang Jang Yop, North Korea's top ideologue, said that it had obtained the text of the speech made on December 7 in Pyongyang, the North Korean capital.

Mr Kim was quoted as saying: "American imperialists will make an all-out attack on us at any moment if they come to know that even foodstuffs for the military are virtually exhausted. Strengthening the armed forces must be our priority." He urged party members to find ways to feed the military.

His recriminations hint at tensions within the party hierarchy. Mr Hwang's defection apparently came after arguments over how to deal with the food crisis.

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Left: **JEAN PAUL GAULTIER,** gleaming suits and woolly scarves turned up the heat. Right: **GIVENCHY,** Alexander McQueen combined creativity with commercial appeal

Great moments beneath the wrapping

PARIS

Fashion journalist of the year



IAIN R. WEBB

During Paris Fashion Week, which finished yesterday, many of the shows played to the excesses of the industry. They were all about flashy packaging, but when the layers of make-up, loud music and colourful set dressing were peeled away, ideas were often thin on the ground. Despite a showing of excellent — some might say vintage — collections for Autumn/Winter 1997, the prevailing mood in the city was gloomy.

However, there were moments of greatness. Alexander McQueen's first ready-to-wear collection for Givenchy was shocking. Good shocking, mind you. The elegantly tailored suits (best in purple leather), watered-silk kimono jackets, grey trousersuits, punched creamy leather and leopardskin lace not only made a strong style statement but also huge commercial sense. This collection proved that the young punk from East London is now ready to play with the big boys.

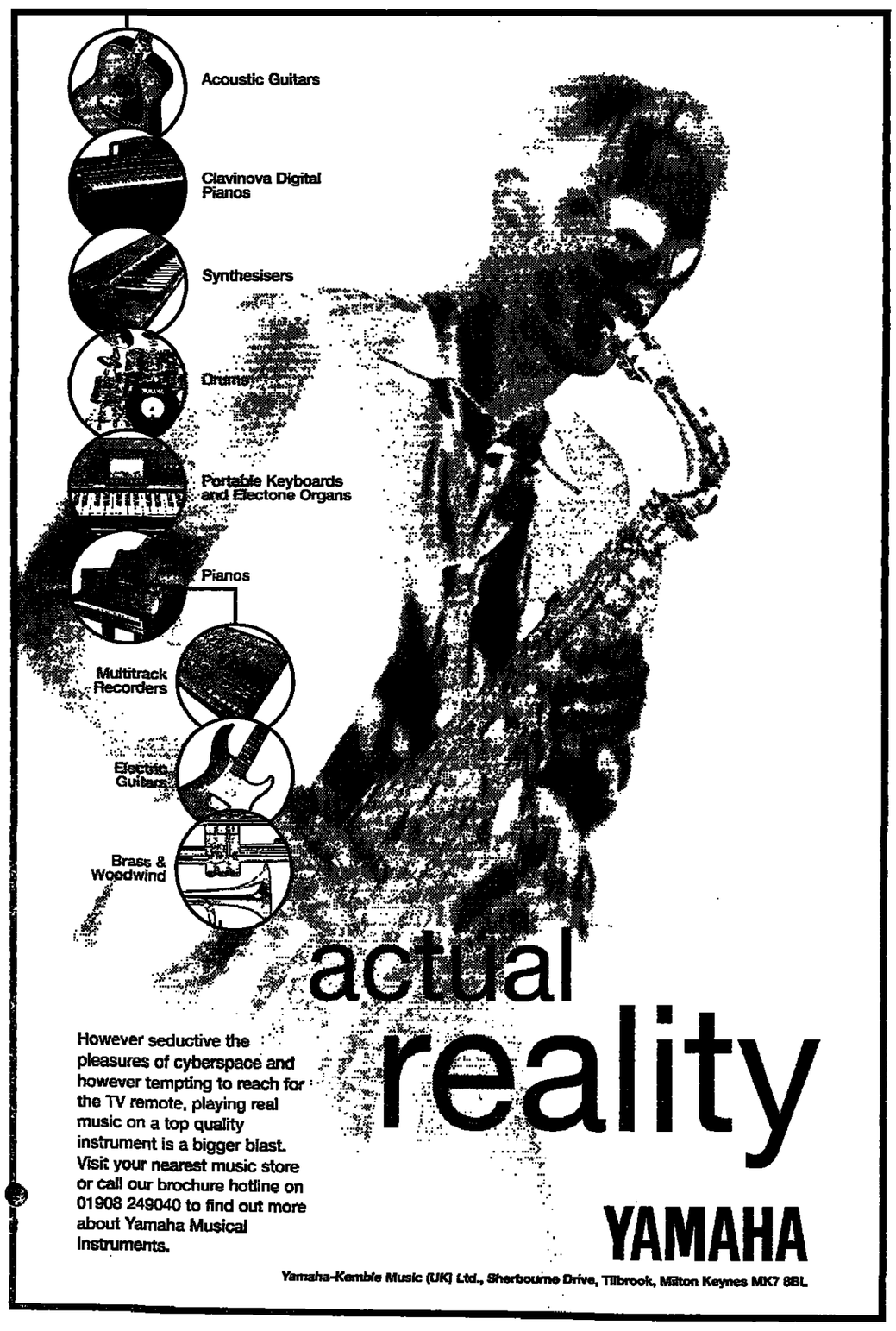
Menswear looks are Ann Demeulemeester's forte. Her low-slung trousers have become the template for the season, so it was great to see her take another step forward. Soft leather and jersey dresses were draped and belted about the body, while oversize suits in salt-and-pepper wool looked enviably comfortable.

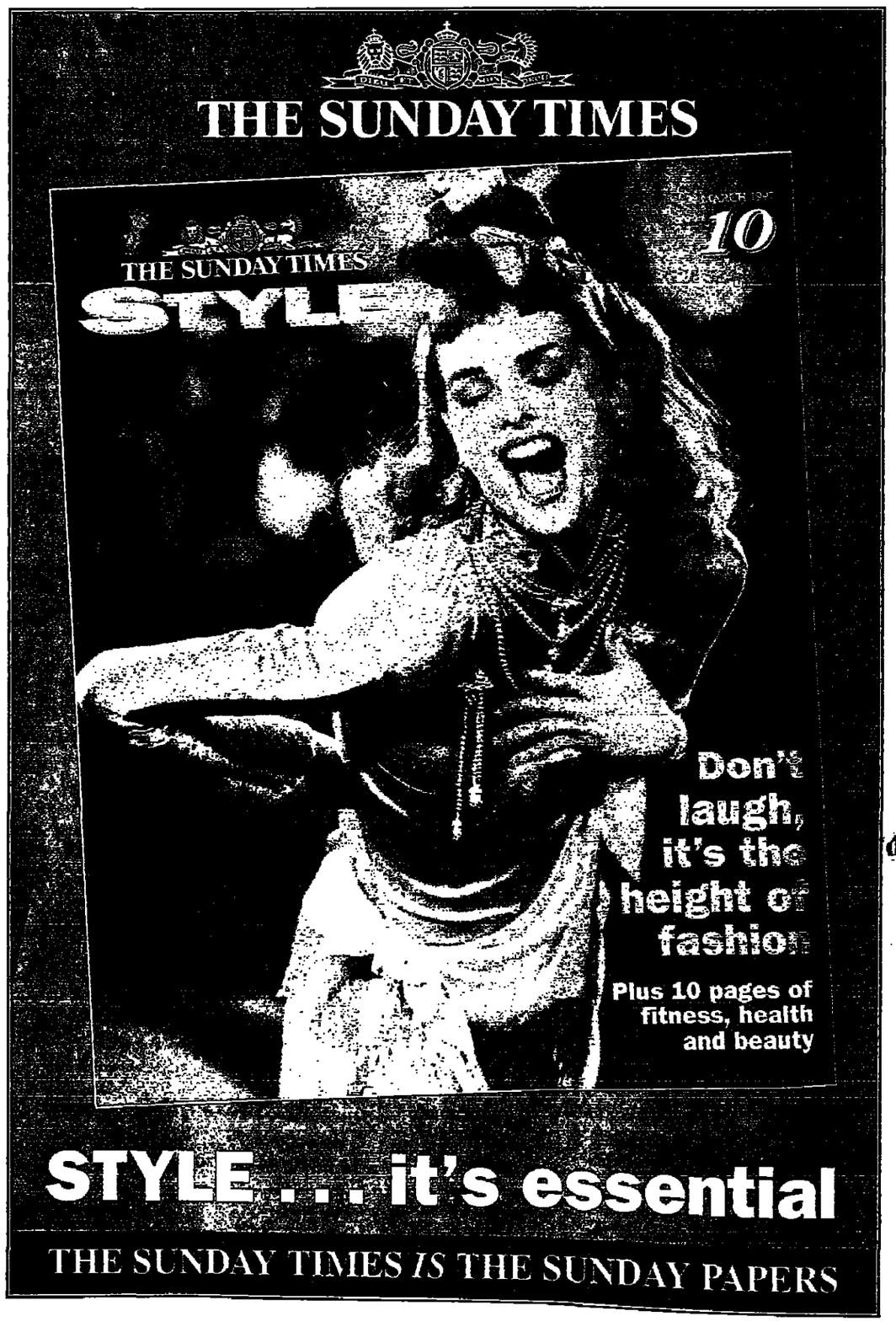
Yohji Yamamoto offered a tailored silhouette straight out of the 1940s and 1950s photographs of Irving Penn. Fly-front suits in herringbone tweed, sometimes trimmed with fur, were shown next to rhinestone-studded jackets in black jersey, while a tuxedo suit in the same fabric merged day and night.

There was a blurring of glamour girls and butch boys on several catwalks. Martine Sitbon's slashed and sequined chiffon was worn with strictly tailored leather; Cerruti's clean-cut tailoring, tweed coats and hand-knit sweaters were offset with soft jersey and, maybe, too much filmy chiffon; and Sonia Rykiel offered jersey trouser suits and louche velvet bathrobe coats.

There was a clash of cultures, colour and cloth at Christian Lacroix, Rifat Ozbek and Emanuel Ungaro. Each showed their own version of "melting pot" glamour.

Fashion doesn't come much





هكذا من الاصل

. . . which showed McQueen's startling first collection for Givenchy



YAMAMOTO: elegance in a nostalgic mood





CERRUTI: slick tailoring in soft trouser suits





Left: **LANG,** a modern mix of angelic crowns and mean, black looks. Middle and right: **ANN DEMEULEMEESTER,** masculine meets feminine in a marriage of leather and soft jersey

Continued from facing page

more glamorous than Valentino or Chanel. This season Valentino gave his collection a tougher edge (all lace and glam-rock glitz) while Chanel's best were its soft, Annie Hall-style tweed trousersuits.

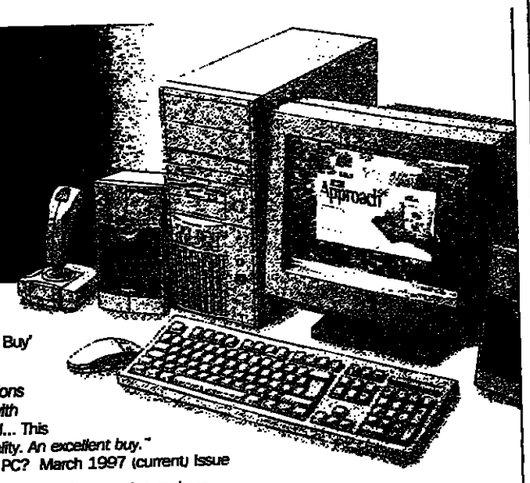
Quietly tailored clothes can make equally great fashion: Helmut Lang offered creamy winter whites (also seen at Issey Miyake and Comme des Garçons) alongside his now famous stark black suits and pretty-but-not-prissy party frocks in velvet and tulle. Better still was an accordion-pleat skirt which resembled a half-opened Chinese parasol. Both grand master Yves Saint Laurent and new boy Eric Bergère presented showroom shows. Each featured strong shoulders and sleek silhouettes which merged 1970s chic with 1990s realism.

Kenzo and Jean Paul Gaultier showed terrific collections which effortlessly combined showmanship with down-to-earth designs. Kenzo continued his love affair with all things oriental — lush paisleys, roomy robe coats, speckled tweeds and patchwork prints — while Gaultier offered a homage to home girls — gleaming oversized suits, hooded cashmere knits, tunics and long skirts. Both designers showed tuxedo looks and mini-skirts over trousers. Neither had need of gaudy gift wrap.

Photographs by CHRIS MOORE
Iain R. Webb is Fashion Director of *Elle* magazine

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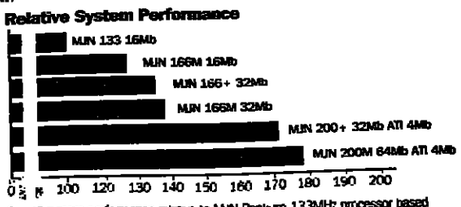
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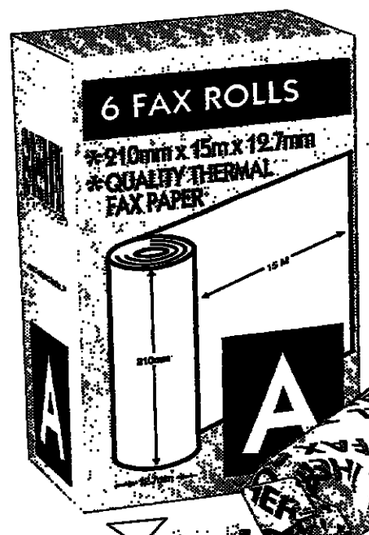
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Dr Thomas Stuttaford on a new herbal treatment for cancer; pig valves in heart surgery; taking care with warfarin

A Chinese tree that prolongs lives

Herbal medicine is now accepted by mainstream doctors and is even, in rather modified forms, dispensed at the Royal Marsden Hospital, London, one of the great medical centres of the world. Among the most successful of the new anti-cancer drugs are Taxol, made from the Pacific yew tree, and Taxotere made from the clippings from British yew.

Rhône-Poulenc Rorer announced today that its new anti-cancer agent Campto CPT11, which is also prepared from a tree, has been licensed for the treatment of adult patients who have colo-rectal cancer, once the tumour has spread and is no longer controlled by the established chemotherapy, the fluorouracil 5, 5-FU.

Campto, which has been tested in multinational trials, is derived from a Chinese tree, the Xi-Shu, or "tree of happiness". It was given the official name *Camptotheca acuminata* by European botanists who brought it back to France in the Victorian era. It had previously been described in a Chinese herbal book published in 1848, but its medicinal properties were discovered only in 1957. At that time their use proved very difficult as it was almost impossible to make a solution of the crystalline substance which had the anti-cancerous action. The problem of solubility has now been overcome. Xi-Shu is a fast growing tree which can put on a metre and a half in a year, and is fully mature within 20 years.

Until 1965 there were only 30 Xi-Shu trees in the whole of the United States, but once there was a suggestion that it had anti-cancerous properties it was widely imported from China. Now the tree, which was previously used to provide waterside shade, is growing in plantations all over the southern states. It will also grow in France and the United Kingdom.

So far as Mr Weir Larsen, of Warlingham in Surrey, is concerned there could be no more appropriate name for Xi-Shu than the tree of happiness, as extracts from it have prolonged, and revolutionised, his life.

In June, 1991, Mr Larsen, who noticed blood in his motions and a change of bowel habit, immediately consulted his doctor. Larsen, like 28,000 other British people each year, had a primary cancer of the colon. When the cancer was removed by surgery it was noticed that he had six or eight small secondaries scattered throughout his liver. Dr David Cunningham, of the Royal Marsden Hospital, thereafter undertook the care of Mr Larsen, who was initially treated with 5-FU. Mr Larsen went into complete remission for two years, and the secondaries disappeared. In 1993, Mr Larsen became resistent to 5FU and tumours were found in both the liver and lungs. It was decided to give him Campto every three weeks, and now his lungs are "all but free" of cancer, and the tumours in the liver are only half the size they were.

Mr Larsen has blood tests twice a month to exclude damage to his white blood cells, but if all is well he has an intra-venous infusion of Campto as an outpatient. He has now had 18 treatments, at a drug cost of £833 each time. For a few days afterwards he feels a bit tired and queasy, and takes tablets to overcome this. Mr Larsen has lost his hair, but otherwise feels well.

The extensive trials have shown that the administration of Campto every three weeks influences the progress of colorectal cancer in patients who have either failed to respond, or have become resistant to 5FU.

Dr Cunningham said: "The treatment is not a cure, but it can prolong life, and a proportion of people have a reasonably long remission."

Further trials are now being carried out to assess the value of Campto as a first-line drug, one which could be given either at the same time as surgery, or when secondary tumours from the initial growth are first detected.

IAN PARRY



Sir Robin Day is recovering from an operation in which a faulty heart valve was replaced with one from a pig

Sir Robin in good heart

ONE of Sir Robin Day's heart valves has been replaced by one from a pig. Such operations have been carried out for more than 25 years; in the early days the death rate was about 25 per cent, but it is now 4 to 5 per cent. Sir Robin has made an excellent recovery.

Some surgeons prefer to use human valves, but pig valves are more readily available and come in different sizes. Natural valves, unlike artificial ones, never break but they calcify and wear out. The younger the patient the speedier this process of calcification. In these patients a valve might be needed within seven to ten years; Sir Robin's should stay in good order for much longer.

Professor Brian Pentecost, of the British Heart Foundation, said: "Most patients will need the anti-coagulant warfarin for only a few months but they will always have to be careful to have antibiotic cover if they have surgery, invasive investigations or dental procedures. If the dentist's work damages the gum, particularly if it is inflamed or infected, antibiotic cover should be given. Patients also need to maintain a high level of oral hygiene."

Antibiotics are needed to prevent any gum or mouth infection spreading via the bloodstream to heart tissue.

Lifesaver with a finger on the pulse

When Lucy and Scampy, the Norfolk terriers, went missing on the marshes on a bleak February night, their owner went looking for them. The frantic search, together with the cold east wind, upset the dog owner's heart rhythm and he developed atrial fibrillation.

When the heart starts firing like a car's engine when the timing has slipped, the irregularity is likely to disturb any clots, which may pass into the cerebral circulation. If a clot sticks in a small blood vessel and obstructs it, a stroke may result. Lucy's owner was lucky. The clot soon moved on and he was left with no detectable brain damage. Lucy and Scampy are happy, their master is well and active again.

The patient has to take warfarin, the commonly prescribed anticoagulant, regularly. Taking warfarin is more of a nuisance than having a daily aspirin but for patients who are fibrillating, warfarin's greater ability to prevent clot formation, and another transient stroke, makes the inconvenience worthwhile.

The BMA has appealed to patients to stock up with their repeat prescriptions before the four-day Easter break, when surgeries will be closed. Doctors will continue to provide emergency treatment, although many more medicines are available without prescription.

The availability of over-the-counter drugs has caused some trouble for patients on warfarin because its action is affected by so many other medicines. Doctors are advised to check in the national formulary before prescribing it.

Patients on the drug should stick to a similar diet each day. Sudden changes in the menu, particularly in the amount of vegetables, which are rich in Vitamin K, eaten can interfere with anti-coagulant control. Alcohol intake, too, must be consistent. Binges at the regimental dinner are disallowed, and even periods of abstinence in an otherwise regular moderate drinker can upset the balance. Any alteration in a patient's diet or a change in their general health is a good indication for more frequent blood testing.

> Take care with changes in diet — and don't binge

The anticoagulant effect, and hence the likelihood of bleeding, is increased by most analgesics such as aspirin, and by anti-rheumatic preparations. Long-term use of paracetamol may, by affecting liver function, also enhance warfarin's action, but it is safe for emergency use in the short term.

Patients using warfarin should also take care when they choose anti-malarials, some of which are available over the counter.

Many antibiotics and anti-fungal preparations, as well as some antidepressants, will affect warfarin's performance and can cause bleeding.

Indigestion should not be treated with over-the-counter Cimetidine, whether Tagamet, Algitec, or Dyspamet, without consulting their doctor, and to a lesser extent drugs such as Losec can enhance warfarin's anticoagulant properties.

Injured tendons mean complicated recovery

PRESIDENT CLINTON's accident to his knee joint caused an injury rather greater than was assumed. When his knee buckled, he tore the tendonous attachment of the powerful quardriceps muscle in the thigh where it joined the kneecap.

Surgeons drilled holes into the kneecap through which they stitched the muscle back to the bone, probably using Vicryl.

The President is already having gentle physiotherapy; later these exercises will become tougher and more painful. He will need crutches for some months and shouldn't think of being back on the golf course in less than six months.

Whereas patients who rupture their quadriceps tendon usually do well in time, tendon injuries to the lower upper limb such as those sustained by Lisa Potts, the heroine of the machete attack on schoolchildren in the Midlands, will take longer to heal, and the result may be less certain.

The forearm and wrist have as many tendons running over them as there are rails at Clapham Junction, and this complicates recovery.

Miss Potts must have had more than a 90 per cent chance of death, so perhaps she is fortunate to have survived with severe scarring on her neck and back and some weakness in her forearm.

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Meet Tim Smit and Penelope Hobhouse

READERS of *The Times* are invited to a gardening forum with two of Britain's leading experts, Tim Smit and Penelope Hobhouse on Tuesday, April 15 at 7.30pm at the Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7.

The forum, chaired by Stephen Anderton, *The Times* Gardener, marks the publication of Hobhouse's latest book, *Garden Designs* (Frances Lincoln, £25) and Smit's *The Lost Gardens of Heligan* (Victor Gollancz, £20).

Hobhouse has an international reputation as a designer, plantswoman and colourist. She will reveal how she has created a range of successful gardens, from a courtyard garden in Paris to one on a windswept Scottish island. Smit, a former archaeologist, record producer and composer, will tell the enthralling story of his discovery and re-creation of the magnificent Victorian gardens at Heligan in Cornwall. There will be an opportunity to question the speakers.

Tickets at £10 (concessions for OAPs, students and the unemployed £7.50 on production of appropriate identification) include £2 off both books, are available by phoning 0171-734 1483, by faxing the coupon below to 0171-494 1313 or 0171-287 2638, by e-mail on 187picc@hatchards.co.uk or by sending the coupon with your remittance to Hatchards, 187 Piccadilly, London, WIV 0LE. Tickets are also available to personal callers at Hatchards.

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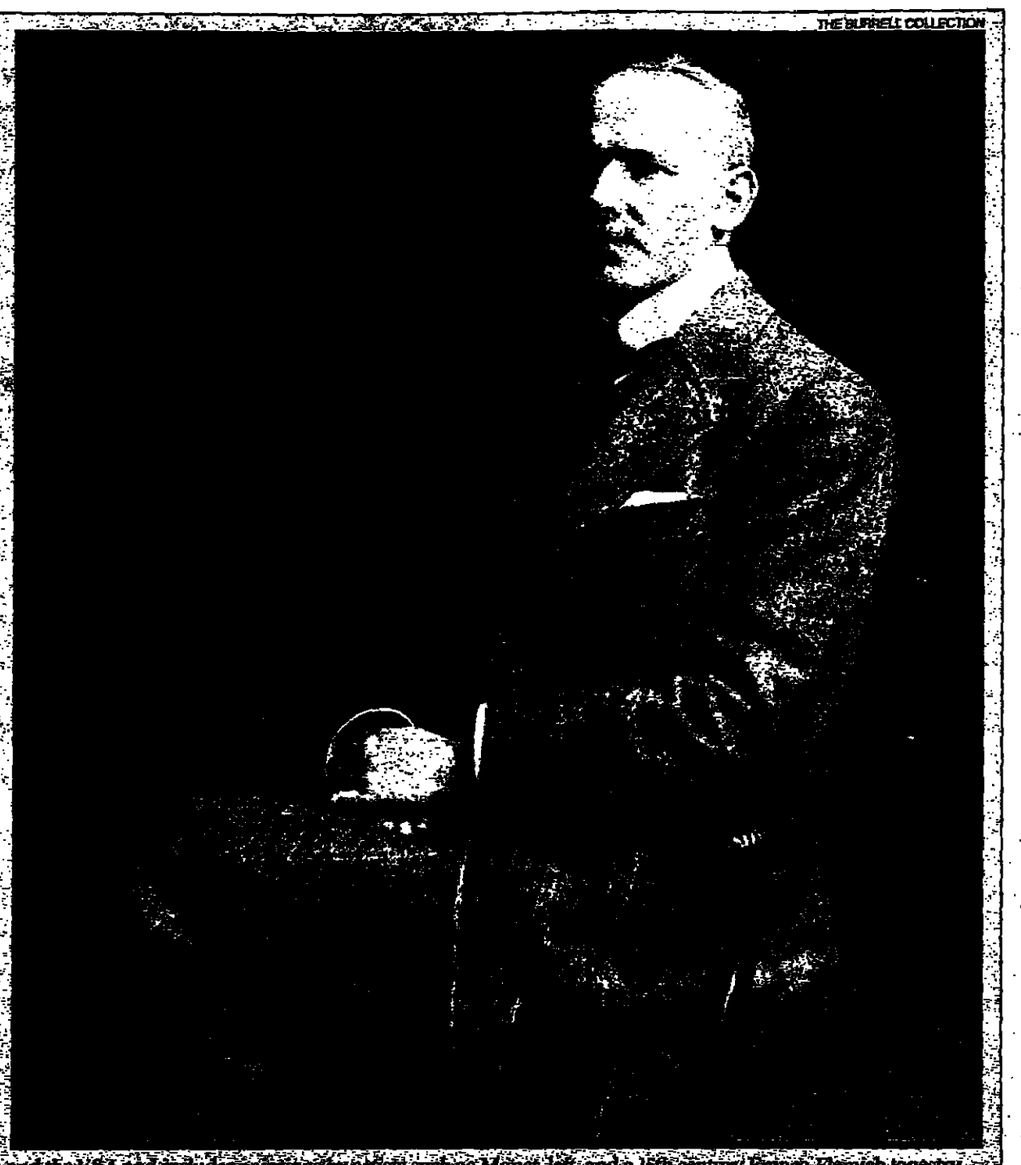
William Burrell's bitter legacy





Degas's portrait of Edmond Duranty





The collection of the shipowner Sir William Burrell, right, has been described as a combination of the British Museum and the V&A and includes paintings by artists such as Manet, left, and a 15th century Brabant Flemish tapestry

Glasgow's head of museums and galleries is seeking a private Act of Parliament to revoke the terms of an art collector's will, threatening the chances of further bequests. **Jason Cowley** reports

Pollok Park on the outskirts of Glasgow is home to the Burrell Collection, one of the most remarkable private collections of art ever assembled by one man. Presented to the city in 1944 by Sir William Burrell, an idiosyncratic Glaswegian shipowner and philanthropist, the collection is at the centre of a legal dispute that could set a precedent likely to discourage future bequests from collectors. For Glasgow City Council seeks nothing less than to alter the terms of Sir William's will by revoking, through a private Act of Parliament, the provision that prohibits any of the 8,000 items being loaned abroad.

Just why Burrell, who died in 1958 aged 96, made such a bizarre stipulation remains a compelling mystery. He has no direct descendants to speak for him. His only child, Sylvia, died in 1992 without having children of her own. The rest of the family has remained resolutely silent. His great-niece, Mona Dickinson, however, spoke to *The Times*: "My great-uncle knew precisely what he was doing. He died in the 1950s, so he knew the benefits of air travel. I'm afraid his motives must remain an enigma."

Like many late Victorian entrepreneur-philanthropists Burrell was a man apart. Born in Glasgow in 1861, he joined the family firm of shipowners when he was just 14. From 1885 he ran Burrell and Son, transforming it into a dominant player in the competitive world of marine commerce.

Austere, secretive and utterly uncompromising, Burrell was harder to like than admire. His biographer and former keeper of the Burrell Collection, Richard Marks, describes him as a complex personality who cannily concealed his emotions. His letters were monuments of reticence, betraying no trace of his aesthetic sensibilities. "From his childhood he was imbued with a strong sense of moral rectitude, not to say primness, and not a hint of impropriety has filtered through any source."

He began buying pictures in late adolescence, the principal value of which, as he waggishly conceded, lay in the frames. Slowly, though, his knowledge and expertise caught up with his increasingly obsessive enthusiasm. A meticulous collector, he recorded his purchases in a series of notebooks.

By the end of the First World War, Burrell had sold his fleet of ships and was living in baronial splendour at Hutton Castle in the Scottish Borders. In an unhappy echo of the decline into which Burrell's trustees claim the gallery housing his collection has fallen, it now lies in ruins.

Living quietly with his wife, Constance, Burrell devoted his later years entirely to art collecting. "Starting as a private collector, he became a collector for posterity rather than for himself," says Bill Wells, a former keeper of the collection.

> 'I am absolutely against altering anyone's wishes'

Julian Spalding, head of museums and galleries at Glasgow City Council, is behind the move to alter the will. He suggests that as a shipowner haunted by the perils of the sea, Burrell made his stipulation because he did not want his pictures travelling over water. The Burrell trustees dispute this claim: he simply wanted his collection viewed as a totality.

Mona Dickinson laments the fact that the collection currently has no keeper or proper catalogue. "It was a very generous bequest. When Richard Marks was keeper of the collection it was terribly zingy and exciting. Everyone wanted to see it. But it is neglected now.

"Glasgow is prepared to spend a bomb getting a new Act of Parliament to change the will but surely that money would be much better spent on looking after the collection. What they propose is deeply upsetting."

Private collectors are monitoring events carefully. Sir Denis Mahon, who announced last year that he was leaving his fabulous collection of Italian Baroque paintings to the National Gallery and other museums under strict prescriptions, describes Spalding's initiative as a "terrible precedent". "I am absolutely against altering anyone's wishes. It must be opposed. [It would] discourage people like myself from giving."

Spalding, who earlier this month faced a vote of no confidence by his museum staff, insists that changing the will would powerfully enhance the cultural life of Glasgow, enabling him to establish a system of reciprocal loans with overseas galleries. Concerned with falling attendance figures at the gallery, he hopes to use the loans as "teasers" to attract more tourists to Glasgow. The Burrell Collection had more than one million visitors in 1983, its inaugural year; that figure fell to 280,000 in 1996.

The trustees of Sir William's will respect the family's opposition. They insist that the council accepted the gift on conditions that must be honoured. "The Burrell Collection is not just another art gallery and museum, it is the visible testimony of one man's achievement in the pursuit of his lifelong enthusiasm and of his taste as an art collector," says Colin Donald, chairman of the trustees.

Peter Wordie, another trustee, is adamant that the will should not be changed. "The council wants to drive a coach and horses through Burrell's will. I cannot see anyone ever gifting anything again."

These views infuriate Spalding. "The only reason for having trustees is for them to think about what a benefactor would have wanted in changed circumstances," he says. "If they are opposing change, they should not exist. The trustees are working against the best interest of the Burrell Collection."

What most impresses about the Burrell is its range and eclecticism. There are paintings by, among others, Bellini, Manet, Rembrandt and Degas; Gothic tapestries, Persian carpets, medieval stained glass and alabasters. "Burrell was a real magpie collector," agrees *The Times* critic Richard Cork. "He was a no-holds-barred collector, although it is said he liked a bargain. His impressive range of Impressionist paintings lead you to expect a certain kind of collection, but there is so much diversity that the Burrell is like the Victoria and Albert Museum and the British Musuem rolled into one."

When Sir William gave his collection to Glasgow Corporation he did so on the proviso that it was placed in a country setting at least 16 miles from what was then the polluted city centre. For the next 40 years Burrell's princely assemblage was scattered in museums and storerooms before finding a home in Pollok Park — and then only after he had agreed to rescind his earlier stipulation after the implementation of the Clean Air Act.

Spalding is convinced that if Sir William were alive today he would show similar flexibility over foreign loans. "Sir William became increasingly stubborn about his wishes in later life. He did not feel that the council was doing enough to find a home for his collection. But the spirit of his gift was very generous; I'm sure that he would have loved to see his work in the Louvre and other great institutions.

"Despite what the trustees say, lending is in the spirit of his gift. I don't feel I am betraying him at all."

Burrell famously said that it is the collection, not the collector, that is the important thing. Unless the dispute is resolved quickly the true beneficiaries of his glorious legacy may well be the lawyers.

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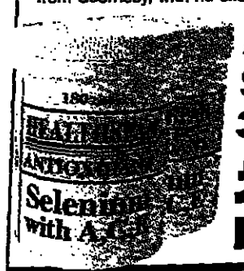
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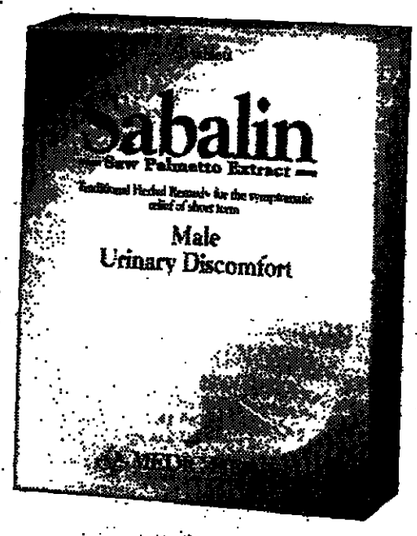
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How Scots Tories could surprise us

Even Michael Forsyth may just hold on, says **Magnus Linklater**

It is sixty years since the impending return of the Unionist candidate for Ross and Cromarty from a holiday in Casablanca prompted the *Scottish Daily Record* to break into verse:

> He is coming! The whisper thrills
> From the Muslim mosques afar.
> On the lonely Ross-shire hills
> Men watch for a moving star,
> For a glitter and a gleam of wings,
> For a throb on the morning clear,
> And their eyes speak wonderful things,
> And their hearts say, "Hush! He is near!"

The candidate in question was Randolph Churchill, Winston's son, flying in to challenge Malcolm MacDonald, Ramsay's son, in the famous by-election of February 1936. There may have been the merest touch of irony in the *Record*'s poem, since Randolph was not expected to make much headway in this far-flung constituency. Nor did he. Then, as now, the Unionist cause found little favour in the north. When Brendan Bracken cabled Winston Churchill in the course of the campaign, it was to report: "More stags than Tories in Cromarty."

The *Record*'s quaint doggerel suggests that those were gentler times. I doubt whether that ferociously Labour-supporting newspaper will be resorting to anything as subtle as irony (or poetry) this time around. Its aim, along with the powerful Labour party machine in Scotland, will be to expunge the last traces of Toryism from a part of the United Kingdom where its adherents are already an endangered species. The handful of Conservative MPs, including three Cabinet ministers, some of them with wafer-thin majorities, looks, on paper, as likely to survive as the rural lairds they once represented.

So why are these men smiling? Why is their mood one of relentless optimism? Why, unlike their colleagues in the south, do they predict, not only that they will hang on, but that they might even gain a seat or two against the prevailing trend? For that is what they maintain. I have this week been offered a serious bet at very reasonable odds that the Tories in Scotland will raise their present total of ten seats to a round dozen (so repeating the success of 1992, when they also gained two) and that all three Cabinet ministers will survive. One explanation could be that this is simply the jauntiness of the gallows, a case of *Morituri te salutant*. But the claim merits closer inspection.

It rests on the proposition that the Conservative cause, which once enjoyed majority support in Scotland, has touched rock bottom, and can only, from now on, go up. It is sustained by the belief that new Labour has failed to win the support north of the border that it enjoys in the South. And it is nurtured by the barnstorming performance of the Secretary of State for Scotland, Michael Forsyth, with his taunts about Labour's "tartan tax" and his vigorous defence of Scottish interests. It is pointed out that the Conservatives' current standing in the polls of 17 per cent is almost exactly what it was at the same time in 1992, from where it rose, on election day, to 26 per cent.

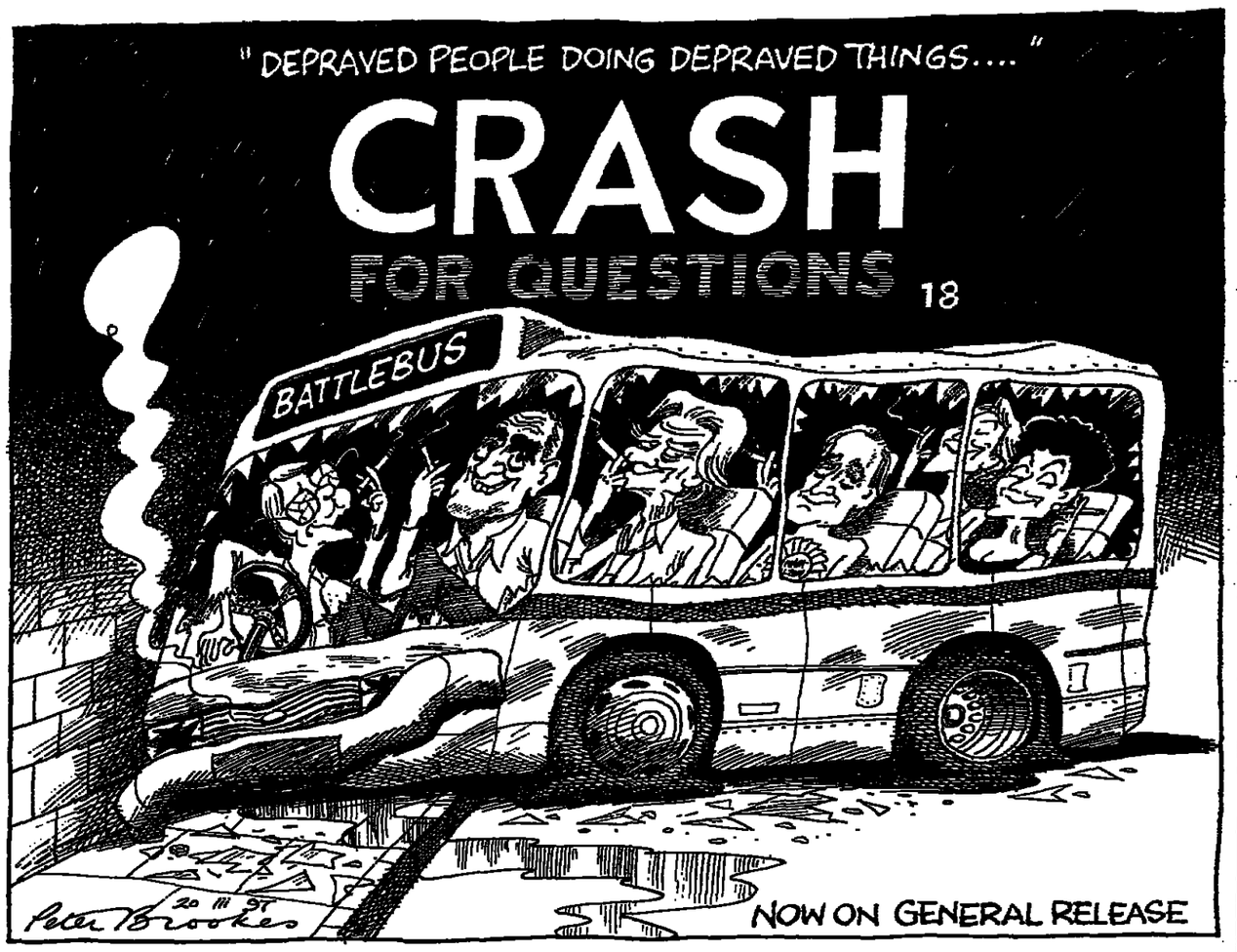
Say all that quickly and it sounds quite convincing. Add some robust campaigning against the Nationalists as a party of socialists, and Labour as the people who will sell out the fishing industry to Europe, and you have, at the very least, an interesting few weeks ahead. But there are some flaws here. For a start, that 17 per cent is what is known as an "adjusted" figure — raised by about three points to take account of the apparent inability of Scottish voters to admit that they are Tory supporters. Then there is the national anti-Government impulse which runs deeper than anything in 1992 and shows no sign of wilting. Finally, the threat of a tartan tax appears to leave most Scottish voters unmoved. As John Curtice, the veteran psephologist from Strathclyde University, puts it: "The tartan tax has had an effect on the Labour Party, but not the electorate." The mountain that the Tories have to climb this time around is, in short, far higher than anything they faced in 1992.

> Rifkind, Lang and Forsyth may buck the trend

Where they are on stronger ground is in arguing that some of their high-profile candidates may hold out against the trend. Ian Lang, fighting the Nationalists in Galloway, will benefit from his ministerial standing and his reputation as a solid performer on behalf of Scottish trade. Here, the strength of the candidate and an effective local organisation could well hold off the challenge. Malcolm Rifkind, confronted in his Edinburgh Pentlands constituency by another QC, Labour's Linda Clarke, has the respect accorded to a "weel kent" figure who, as Foreign Secretary, has rarely been off the television. There is in Edinburgh a strong sense of pride in a local son who has achieved success on the national stage while remaining loyal to his home town.

And then there is Michael Forsyth. His Stirling seat is among the country's most vulnerable, and Labour will channel any resources necessary to win it. Their candidate, Anne McGuire, needs a swing of only 0.6 per cent, while boundary changes reduce Mr Forsyth's 703 majority to less than a third of that. But the odds against him last time seemed every bit as great, and he held on. His fame, or notoriety, in Scotland could scarcely be greater, and his policies have won him respect if not affection.

Against all the odds, therefore, he might hold Stirling. My betting Tory friend goes further. He claims that Mr Forsyth will not only win, but will romp home with a majority up to four figures. And so, aided by the strong personal qualities of their candidates, the Tories in Scotland just might surprise us all. It's a crazy enough idea to merit a few lines of verse.



What is Blair burying?

The glorious revolution on May 1 will not be the death of Toryism; it is the death of socialism

William Rees-Mogg

The announcement of the election seems to have crystallised the attitude of the electorate. As in 1906, 1945 or 1979, this is probably going to be one of the elections that reveals a shift of consciousness in British politics. The opinion polls and the by-elections say there is going to be a Labour landslide, probably comparable in scale to the Labour victory in 1945, perhaps even to the Liberal victory in 1906. This victory will be the result of a shift in public perception which has been developing for a long time. Indeed it could even be dimly foreseen in the 1950s. What is happening in Britain is not the death of Toryism, which will only come about with the death of human nature. It is the death of socialism. That, paradoxically, has released the energy which looks like producing a political landslide for Labour.

After the 1959 election, in which I had been the Conservative candidate for a safe Labour seat in Durham, I was asked to join my party's central policy committee, which had been set up to plan the Conservative manifesto for the following election. Ian Macleod was our chairman; the whole committee was kept very secret, with the agenda circulated in numbered double envelopes. A year or two into the 1959 Parliament, we had a dinner meeting with the Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan. One of his themes in the discussion was that another Conservative victory would destroy the old Labour Party. Labour would be forced to recognise that there was no alternative but to abandon socialism, in the form of nationalisation, state control and attempted equality of outcome. Harold Macmillan was not afraid of social democracy; indeed his pre-war political book, *The Middle Way*, is virtually a social democratic tract.

The Conservatives did not win the 1964 election, and by then Hugh Gaitskell had died. That delayed the death of British socialism until the 1990s. The "Gang of Four", who deserve to be remembered with gratitude, tried to kill it in the 1980s, when they formed the breakaway Social Democratic Party in alliance with the Liberals. But the old Labour Party rejected them. Michael Foot was a left-wing Labour leader, but even Neil Kinnock and John Smith were still in some sense socialist, even though they were moving the Labour Party to the right. Margaret Thatcher's three election victories, and John Major's election victory in 1992, which can now be seen to have had a momentous impact on the Labour Party, achieved what Harold Macmillan had hoped for in the early 1960s. The Labour Party had to accept that socialism was not electable; they made Tony Blair their leader and decided, in the Clause 4 vote, to abandon the commitment to state ownership.

In the meantime, socialism had failed spectacularly outside Britain. In the 1960s the rhetoric of the Soviet Union was still taken seriously. When Khrushchev said he would bury the West by superior socialist economic growth, there were many people in Britain who thought he might be right: some feared it and at least a few hoped for it. The decline of the Soviet Union under Brezhnev and its break-up under Gorbachev and Yeltsin was accompanied by the repudiation of Marxist economic centralism in China. The ex-communist states of Eastern Europe were seen to have been ruined by their socialist experience.

Repeated electoral defeats for the Labour Party, combined with the total failure of the Marxist model in other countries, led to the election of Tony Blair, who has forced through a revolutionary rejection of his party's central doctrines. The social democratic idea has long influenced the Conservative Party, which is why new Labour and old Conservatives look so much alike. Not only Harold Macmillan, but the entire left-wing Conservative tradition down to Kenneth Clarke has been entirely compatible with social democratic ideas.

In terms of electoral calculation, a social democratic Labour Party was always likely to be a winner. Hugh Gaitskell thought so after his 1959 defeat. When *The Times* commissioned an opinion poll to gauge support for a left-of-centre coalition in the early 1970s, it showed that a social democratic party would then have had a large majority. The alliance between the Social Democrats and the Liberals, even though it failed to win the core of the Labour Party vote, briefly had a lead in the opinion polls and came quite close to a breakthrough in the 1983 election.

The 1992 electoral arithmetic was already beginning to look ominous for the Conservatives, if one supposed that a social democratic party could be created in the Labour Party itself. The Conservatives in 1992 won 42 per cent of the vote, Labour 34 per cent and the Liberal Democrats 18 per cent. If one supposes that just a third of the Liberal Democrats were really social democrats, along with just a fifth of the Conservatives, that shift would convert the 1992 vote to Conservatives 35 per cent, new Labour 48 per cent and Liberal Democrats 12 per cent. Such a shift would produce a landslide on the 1906 scale, and the current opinion polls show an even bigger Labour lead than that.

From the Tory point of view, this historic shift must be welcome, even if the price should be the defeat of the Conservative Party for one or two Parliaments. Socialism has been the enemy in a way that social democracy never can be. Socialism destroyed nations and damages those it did not destroy. Britain's deplorable economic performance between 1945 and 1979 was rooted in the socialism of Attlee's Government of 1945. It was an honourable Government but with disastrously wrong ideas; it built the post-war British economy on the model of state socialism, just as Nehru built the Indian economy, and with similarly disastrous results. Despite the relaxation of the socialist system under the Conservative Governments from 1951 to 1964, Margaret Thatcher was the liberator. If her work has liberated even the Labour Party from socialism, that is a triumph and not a disaster for the long-term interest of the country.

The shift of ideas in the Labour Party explains why the Conservatives are facing a massive defeat when they have not governed particularly badly; in this Parliament they have at worst made early mistakes and tried to recover from them. John Major's place in history will not be among the great prime ministers — he is not a Thatcher, a Churchill or a Lloyd George — but he will not be placed among the disasters either. He leaves the economy in sound condition. Most prime ministers have been in this middle group, and it is an honourable achievement. If John Major is now about to be turned out, the repudiation seems likely to be out of proportion to the failures of his performance.

A landslide will produce its own aftershocks. When Campbell-Bannerman was elected in 1905, shortly before the election, nobody could foresee either the achievements or the failures of the Liberal Government between then and 1914. It was certainly a Government of great men, including Asquith, Churchill and Lloyd George; its main achievement was the creation of the first welfare state. Tony Blair himself will not come to power with a national mandate for new policies, since he has been only too careful to minimise his policy commitments, but he does seem likely to come in with the big bang of an election landslide. That will in itself greatly impress people. There is no argument like a three-figure majority in the Commons.

There is one great drawback. Without Margaret Thatcher there would have been no new Labour; the progression has been from Thatcherism to social democracy. It ought to have been the other way round. Any realistic reader of the social democratic press — of *The Guardian*, *The Observer* or *The Mirror* — can see the built-in obsolescence of current social democratic ideas, but these flaws are being overlooked in new Labour and in Tony Blair. If we had gone through the experience of social democracy after the war, we would not be contemplating it now to solve our present problems. The glorious revolution that may be coming on May 1 will show that socialism is dead; it will also show that the British are only now climbing painfully into the world of the 1960s.

The best part of a lifetime

Muriel Spark on her place in English letters

Your warm endorsement of this most important award, the David Cohen British Literature Prize, has made me very happy. The stated purpose of the award — "For a lifetime's achievement" — is one that appeals greatly to me, for I have indeed dedicated a lifetime to the art of letters and to perfecting it to the utmost of my talents and capacities.

It is exactly 70 years ago that, at the age of nine, I set forth upon my literary life. My first work, a poem, was an intended improvement on Robert Browning's *The Pied Piper of Hamlin*. My elders and teachers were somewhat intrigued by this ruthless rewriting of the "Piper Pied" as I called him (so as to rhyme with "he cried"). And so, where angels feared to tread I continued to rush in with my improvements on many such examples of English literature, available in plenty as they were in the Edinburgh public libraries.

Eventually I settled down to producing original work of my own — poems and stories — and I have been at it ever since, with the result that I stand here this evening to thank you from the bottom of my heart for this great honour.

A few years ago I was called to the University of Aberdeen to receive an honorary degree. It was conferred on me by the then Chancellor, Sir Kenneth Alexander. After the ceremony he asked me, "Do you remember Miss Kissock?" With a little thought I did indeed remember kindly Miss Kissock, our first infant teacher at Gillespie's school, Edinburgh. Sir Kenneth, about my age, had shared those warm experiences with me when we were little more than toddlers — the play-boxes and the coloured plasticine. And there he was in his glittering robes and there I was in my scarlet gown. What does one do with the best part of a lifetime? I thought of the lines of Robert Louis Stevenson from *Keepsake Mill*:

> Honoured and old and all gaily apparelled,
> Here we shall meet and remember the past.

I feel fortunate in having been born in a rich century for literature. It is the century that produced the ground-breaking *Waste Land* of T.S. Eliot and the spell-binding *A la recherche du temps perdu* of Marcel Proust. It is a century that stretches from Chekhov, Pirandello and Sciascia to Garcia Marquez; from E.M. Forster, Joseph Conrad, Virginia Woolf and Graham Greene to Milan Kundera, Iris Murdoch, Saul Bellow and John Updike. We have had critics of art and literature indispensable to civilisation — scholars of brilliance and wit such as Lytton Strachey, Herbert Read, Allen Tate, Lionel Trilling, and onward to Frank Kermode and Gabriel Josipovici, the more to enrich our powers of appreciation and discernment. The list is a long and dazzling one.

As for the novel itself, though it is often pronounced dead I am convinced that it is very alive. So long as experiments in prose continue, so does novelty of thought, so do invention and imagination.

The 20th century, in fact, has been buoyed up with an abundance of literary talent and originality — pressed down and flowing over. To be a writer in such an atmosphere of achievement has been, to me, a fulfilling and fully rewarding activity. To have been able to contribute to such a great tradition is in itself a high privilege.

What turn will literature take in the century to come? — drama? poetry? — A lot depends on the pathways opened by communicative technology. Let's hope it will be as inspiring in the field of creative writing as the development of printing methods in the West in the 15th century proved.

One thing I am persuaded of: the world of communications has to be fed by travel. Nothing can be done without it. Proust wrote: "The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new lands, but in seeking with new eyes." This is an ultimate truth, never to be overlooked. But it has surely to be qualified by the likelihood that "new eyes" are very greatly stimulated by new faces, new sights and sounds. To me, travel is the life-blood of literature. We have to find at first hand how other people live and die, what they say, how they smell, how they are made. I recommend travel to young authors.

And also to authors not so young. So far, you have been too polite to ask me how I intend to use the handsome prize-money that goes with the British Literature Award. I can say right away that I intend it for my travels, starting with a lovely, new, suitable motor car, which I hope will bear me in and out of our famous tunnel with ever more ease and pleasure.

Thank you again, and again.

This is the Dame Muriel Spark's acceptance speech from last night's award ceremony in London. In addition to the prize, the Arts Council of England gave £10,000 to Muriel Spark's former school, James Gillespie's High School, Edinburgh, on which her novel The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie *was based.*

Cross to bear

THE SALE yesterday for £27,000 of a Victoria Cross awarded during the Indian Mutiny of 1857 has devastated an elderly widow, whose son virtually gave it away last November to pay off a loan.

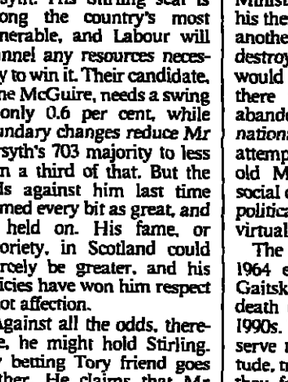
George Forrest handed over the medal awarded to his great great grandfather, Captain George Forrest, to repay a £4,000 personal loan. Ethel Forrest, 84, his mother, is broken by the sale.

"My son needed the money for his computer business," she says from her home in Oxford. "so he borrowed it from a man calling himself a broker. But after three months he could only repay £1,000, so he gave the *man* the medal. He didn't know how much it was worth and I was in hospital at the time. I would have found him the *money if he really needed it.*"

Captain Forrest was awarded the VC as a 59-year-old officer in the Bengal Veteran Establishment. He and a small band of men were guarding the British Army's main ammunition store, the Delhi Magazine, when it was attacked by mutineers. Three VCs were won that day.

Mrs Forrest has been told by the Fraud Office and the auctioneers that, unjust as it may seem, the deal was entirely lawful. There is no chance of redress.

"Auctioneers have been coming up to try to persuade me to sell for years," says Mrs Forrest, a Yugoslav by birth. "It was the most treasured possession of my husband, who died ten years ago. The auctioneers told me I could get a replica. I don't want a replica. I want my medal back."



"Can we get him along for a signing?"

DIARY

● *The election campaign has dealt an ugly blow-dry to Andrew Neil, man about town and Editor-in-Chief of* The Scotsman. *For the course of the campaign, the BBC has dropped* The Midnight Hour, *on which he hosted a post-prandial chat, alternating with others, such as Sir Bernard Ingham, whose glory days are behind them.*

Frame-up

MICHAEL HOWARD would be well advised to avoid the Michael Parkin Gallery in Belgravia next month, when it hosts an exhibition of prison art. The inmates' work, which will hang alongside that of established artists, has been chosen by Sir Stephen Tumim.

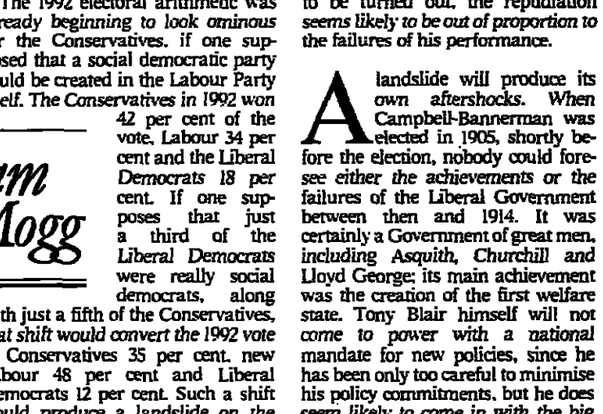
Tumim is best known for his period as Inspector of Prisons, when he bated Howard mercilessly with his criticisms of government policy, and his selection in "The Judge Hangs" exhibition includes the work of hard-timers such as Ray Scobie, who is serving a murder sentence in Nottingham. I understand that Tumim hopes to secure Scobie a place at the Ruskin School of Art in Oxford on his release.

Death row

THE OXFORD and Cambridge crews limbering up for their annual bout between Putney and Mortlake at the end of the month are considering another competition which would make the Boat Race look like a paddle on the Serpentine.

Both teams have been invited to compete on the Amazon against the Brazilian Rowing Federation in a "friendly fixture". But hostile jungle conditions — freak rapids, piranhas and blood-sucking leeches — are expected. The Brazilian Rowing Federation is offering expenses, and both camps think it would be churlish to refuse.

● *Late in the Lords the other night, Baroness Blatch revealed some of the secrets powering the Upper House's Tory front bench. Rounding off her final performance as the Home Office minister for this Parliament, she thanked her whip, Lord Courtown, "for glasses of lemonade, from time to time a Polo mint or if I am lucky, a chocolate".*



McCartney and son: how much of the talent has been passed on?

On the run?

WITH a knighthood under his belt, Paul McCartney feels perhaps that it is time to hand over the musical reins. His son James, 19, makes his debut appearance playing guitar on the ageing Beatle's new album, *Flaming Pie*.

Hitherto, the publicity-shy McCartney has made efforts to keep his children out of public view. On the other hand, he has often insisted on being accompanied by his wife Linda when performing on stage — even though Linda's performances have not always received critical acclaim.

The Beatles jettisoned early edits of *Hey Jude* with Linda on backing vocals, and when she started playing keyboards with McCartney's group Wings, coloured stickers were attached to the keys to help her along.

P·H·S

OPEN HOUSE

Major can and should publish the Downey report

The slide from stubbornness through bluster to defeat has too often marked this Government's weakest moments. From the forlorn defence of the ERM to the abortive beef war brave words have become like ash in ministerial mouths. Now, with his position on Sir Gordon Downey's "sleaze" report, the Prime Minister is in danger once again of making his stand on treacherous ground. In setting his face against publication he is defying not just the opposition parties and the Member with the most to lose, Neil Hamilton, he is acting wholly contrary to the public interest.

As we argued yesterday, and others have argued since, the voters whose support will be solicited by Mr Hamilton and others need to know if their candidate is a "liar and a cheat" or an honourable member. Sir Gordon was explicitly charged by the Prime Minister with delivering a judgment before the election. He has fulfilled his part of the bargain. If Sir Gordon's investigations are embargoed until after the election, this denies Mr Hamilton, his colleagues, and the voters the justice they deserve.

The publication of Sir Gordon's report is a matter for Parliament, not the Government. But it is as a result of the Prime Minister's decision that Parliament is denied the chance to permit publication. Because Parliament is prorogued tomorrow, the Standards and Privileges Committee cannot sit to consider Sir Gordon's report after that date. Sir Gordon's report will not be ready until next week. By that time the only place it can go is a Whitehall safe. The Speaker made it clear yesterday that the timetable had been set and she could do nothing. The Prime Minister, however, could.

It is within the power of Her Majesty's Government to move the date of prorogation. That need not mean shifting the date of Parliament's dissolution, or the election. It need not mean members itching to campaign being penned into Parliament. Shifting prorogation does not require a new sitting of Parliament, it is simply a flexible adaption of the timetable which would allow the Privileges Committee to sit even though other MPs were absent. It would not be conventional to shift the prorogation, but then it is not conventional for Parliament to prorogue 18 days before it needs to in advance of a general election and that is what the Government is currently doing.

The Prime Minister has protested that "mischievous" is too kind a word for allegations that he has fixed the election timetable to avoid the publication of the Downey report. It would, we accept, be out of character for Mr Major to engineer such an outcome. His desire to maintain the highest standards in public life is conspicuous. Nevertheless, now that this situation has arisen, it would be consistent with Mr Major's sense of honour to explore mechanisms which might allow for publication, such as shifting the date when Parliament prorogues.

The pressure for publication will not abate. Already elements are leaking and other members, as well as Mr Hamilton, are finding themselves in trouble. The folly of some members, and the reckless campaigning of outsiders, has seen the reputation of Parliament and the Conservative Party suffer, often unfairly, over the last five years. If both are to preserve their reputation then openness is the only answer. Mr Major should acknowledge that before it is too late.

COLD PEACE IN HELSINKI

Clinton must limit the damage of Nato expansion

East-West summits are less momentous occasions than they used to be. During the Cold War, expectations for world peace hung on a few carefully staged meetings when the leaders of the two superpowers bargained over their nuclear arsenals. Now they are routine. Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin have already met 11 times.

Today's meeting, however, has something of the old atmosphere. The venue, Helsinki, is redolent of the days when Russians and Americans chose neutral Nordic territory for their encounters; familiar themes are back on the agenda, arms control, nuclear weapons and the clash between Moscow and the Atlantic Alliance.

For both leaders, the stakes are higher than they have been for years. Both have been recently re-elected, and need to give firm personal direction to their new administrations. Mr Yeltsin, especially, will be under intense scrutiny to see whether he has fully regained his physical and political strength. He has just announced a bold reshuffle of his Government, promoting capable young reformers. He must now demonstrate equal dexterity in defending Russia's interests abroad. Mr Clinton, beset by a growing scandal over campaign funding, has an interest in reasserting some leadership over the Western world.

This summit will help to determine whether Russia and the West are really able to forge a new strategic relationship, or whether they will slip back to the old ways of mutual suspicion, acrimony and confrontation. The issue is Nato enlargement. This ill-judged policy has already stirred up atavistic antagonism across the spectrum of Russian opinion. It has now, belatedly, aroused the opposition of many Western military strategists and politicians, who are asking how they blundered into the proposal without proper debate or rationale.

There is no easy way back, however. Many promises have been given to would-be applicants, and much political capital invested in the preparations. At least three new members — Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic — now seem guaranteed admission at Nato's Madrid meeting in July.

What the Helsinki summit must do is to mitigate the damaging uncertainty that this new dividing line through Europe will cause. Western leaders say that the Russians have already accepted the fact of enlargement, and are now only holding out for better conditions. This is only partially true. Russia will never fully endorse the movement of Nato's frontiers further east. It may reconcile itself to enlargement, knowing that it is powerless to insist otherwise. But Mr Clinton would be foolish to imagine Russian approval for a policy which will, at best, bring perpetual negotiation.

He should concentrate on securing a parallel Russia-Nato agreement. This is important in itself, and should not be linked to the enlargement process. Russia needs a degree of dignity and voice in the management of European security. Mr Clinton must offer Mr Yeltsin a genuine partnership while not giving him a veto over Nato policy-making.

The decision on enlargement, and the need to satisfy Russia after the decision, has left the West with a weak hand in dealing with Moscow. As a consequence, nothing can be held out in front of them as a deterrent against potentially bad diplomatic behaviour. Discussions between the guilty and the impotent are invariably unsatisfactory in both content and form.

Mr Clinton can, and probably will, make concessions of value in other areas — on full Russian membership of the G7 or in revision of the outdated Conventional Forces in Europe treaty. To get the package right, he will need to deploy all his political skills, personal charm and imaginative diplomacy to convince a sceptical Boris Yeltsin.

THE FIRST EUROPEANS

Etruscans, Basques and Islington man

Down the centuries, from Pompey the Great to Franco the Small, and from Madrid to the Parc des Princes, the Basques have been called many things. But until Jorge Alonso nobody had thought of calling them Etruscans. Señor Alonso's research, reported by our Madrid Correspondent, offers a new answer to one of the puzzling questions about the long climb of man from the other beasts.

Language is a defining characteristic of man. It both shapes and restricts the way he thinks, by reflecting primitive human concepts such as the collaboration of the hunt and the fireside. Language makes possible planning, organisation, memory and society. And Basque and Etruscan are both very ancient, very odd languages. They have no known structural or historical relationship to any other language. Linguistic jargon describes such solitary tongues as "isolates". Basque is the only surviving language of those spoken in southwest Europe before the Indo-European invasions. Etruscan was the language of Tuscany before it was swamped by the golden voice of ancient Rome and the twitter of modern Islington.

Señor Alonso's previous work suggests that Basque and other prehistoric and mostly forgotten languages were brought to Europe from North Africa. He argues that tribal migrations were driven by pressure on land, war and change of climate in Africa. And the tribes brought their languages with them. Others think that languages spread by linguistic osmosis from man to man and settlement to settlement rather than by such mass movements of population. But Señor Alonso now claims to have found significant similarities between Basque and the epitaphs and inscriptions that are all that are left of Etruscan. For example, the two old languages share the same word for "death", a topic that obsessed both cultures.

Herodotus said that the enigmatic Etruscans came from Asia Minor. But Herodotus, although a story-teller who still casts his ancient spell in the film *The English Patient*, is not infallible on the origins of man. Nobody is. For science, like mankind, advances by its hypotheses and mistakes, not its certainties. It has been said that though God cannot alter the past, historians can. It is perhaps because they can be useful to him in this way that he tolerates them.

But the roots of the oldest languages of mankind are still of interest. As we report on our books pages today, Horace has a new biographer. A Berber ancestry would indeed be a novel concept for Maecenas, Horace's patron and campaign co-ordinator for Augustus, who was "descended from Etruscan kings". It may be surprising that the smiling, fun-loving, feminist Etruscans may be related to the dark and misogynist Pyreneans. But the suggested connection has relevance beyond prehistory, archaeology and protolinguistics. For man's future, as always, builds upon his past. This is as true of language as it is of man's other skills. To communicate across the millennia to man's remotest ancestors is exciting, scientifically fascinating, and distinctively human.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Regulators' view on windfall tax

From Dr Keith Hampson, MP for Leeds North West (Conservative)

Sir, As a member of the committee, I must repudiate Gordon Brown's claim that the report on energy regulation by the House of Commons Select Committee on Trade and Industry backs his case for a windfall profits tax (report, March 19).

We found that at the start of privatisation, shareholders in the regional electricity companies did disproportionately well, but that shareholders' prospects have varied since then and in the gas industry they have not been particularly good. We also said that "we find it hard to see how it would have been possible, prior to flotation, to have accurately estimated likely efficiency gains".

The regulators reacted to their underestimate by adjusting their subsequent price reviews to benefit customers. Britain now has the cheapest industrial gas and electricity in Europe and domestic consumers have seen electricity prices fall by 15 per cent and gas prices fall by 24 per cent.

Our conclusion was to commend the retention of the present system of regulation because it is designed to encourage efficiency savings. Companies first strive to increase profits and thereafter the regulators pass on the benefit to customers through periodic price reviews.

In giving evidence to the committee, Professor Littlechild, the electricity regulator, argued that by adjusting his price controls he had "dealt" with the windfall of the early period. Moreover, he indicated that in all likelihood the companies would seek to pass on any windfall tax to their customers.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH HAMPSON,
House of Commons.
March 19.

Power of the press

From Mr Roy Greenslade

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("It's the voters wot win it", March 19) rightly points out that two research studies into the possible effect of *The Sun* on the 1992 election result reached very different conclusions.

What he did not say is that both failed to offer genuine insights into the relationship between a newspaper's political bias and its readers' casting of votes because they restricted themselves to studying only the election campaign itself.

In passing, Mr Jenkins touched on the key point that companies spend millions of pounds a year advertising in papers in the knowledge that what people read certainly does influence them to buy.

If they can be persuaded to buy, then surely they can be persuaded to vote. However, no advertiser would be foolish enough to think a single hit is good enough to indoctrinate a would-be buyer. It is the drip-drip-drip of a lengthy campaign which works. The same is true of editorial content. Neil Kinnock and John Major were each vilified for five years in *The Sun*. The insults Mr Kinnock suffered in the final week were merely the coup de grace. Mr Major will get his next month.

Yours sincerely,
ROY GREENSLADE,
5 Arundel Terrace,
Brighton, East Sussex.
March 19.

TV debate

From Mr Aubrey Thomas

Sir, A television confrontation between the leaders of the Conservative and Labour parties and your front-page headline today, "Major and Blair hit campaign trail", suggest we are heading for an American-style presidential election. This is nothing like the traditional British election between parties with their different ideas and aspirations.

Electors who vote for personalities should remember that in the next five-year parliamentary term, the Conservative and Labour parties can reject their leaders without any reference to the electorate.

Yours faithfully,
AUBREY THOMAS,
5 Birdham Close, Bickley, Kent.
March 18.

From Mr Adam Ward

Sir, The prospect of a televised debate between party leaders marks another stage in the progress of personality politics and should be resisted. We may expect attention to be focused further on participants' ties, suits and hairstyles – at the expense of any real examination of their policies.

Yours sincerely,
A. P. WARD,
90 Moat Avenue,
Green Lane, Coventry, Warwickshire.
March 17.

From Mr James Arnott

Sir, Taking everything into account, I think that I would prefer to spend the next six weeks in Albania.

Yours despairingly,
JAMES ARNOTT,
30 Banbury Way,
Epsom Downs, Surrey.
March 18.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Israel's hard line on settlements

From Mr Anthony Rubin

Sir, Like Mr A. J. Cotton (letter, March 17) I too lived in Israel for 12 years and, like his son and daughter, I served in the Israeli defence forces. I am still an Israeli citizen. Why should I not state publicly in Britain what I and the majority of Israelis state publicly in Israel, namely that provocative acts should cease and governments should follow the Oslo accords wholeheartedly and generously.

If my public statements in Britain were able to influence and lead to the overthrow of the present Government, so that Israel could revert to the Rabin/Peres track for peace, I would have done a great deal for the State of Israel.

Even in England I can assure Mr Cotton that I can understand complex issues and be well informed. You don't have to stand in Jerusalem to realise that building now in the east of the city is likely to jeopardise the peace process and provoke the violence which this Israeli Government can use to justify further intransigence.

It is a cynical policy and can itself lead to the destruction of the State. I will say publicly that I am against it, wherever I happen to be. I happen to be a "candid friend" of Israel, not this Israeli Government.

Yours,
ANTHONY RUBIN,
Wicker House,
Wicker Lane, Hale Barns, Cheshire.

From Sir Cyril Townsend, MP for Bexleyheath (Conservative)

Sir, Nick Oulton (letter, March 11) asks why "it is seemingly not acceptable" for Prince Charles to visit Israel.

Perhaps part of the answer is that Israel since its creation has failed to live within internationally recognised borders, and continues to occupy by force of arms large chunks of territory belonging to its neighbours.

Yours faithfully,
CYRIL TOWNSEND,
House of Commons.
March 12.

From Mr Jeremy Montagu

Sir, People who refer to the reunification of Jerusalem in 1967 as an illegal occupation by conquest frequently seem to regard its forcible division by conquest by the Jordanian Army in 1948 as part of the natural course of events and its result as the status quo.

Jerusalem was one city from antiquity until 1948. It passed, yes by conquest, through various hands, beginning with King David and continuing with Babylonians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Crusaders, Arabs again, Turks, and finally Allenby, but always as one city, with many peoples living, mostly within discrete quarters. Only in 1948 was it divided and this pattern disrupted. Nineteen years later it was reunited, and so it remains today, once again one city with many peoples living, mostly in discrete quarters.

Why is it that so brief a period of 19 years is accepted as the norm?

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
JEREMY MONTAGU,
171 Iffley Road, Oxford.
March 14.

Police bugging

From Dr C. N. M. Pounder

Sir, In your report today of Alison Halford's claim before the European Court of Human Rights that her telephones were illegally bugged on a warrant of the Home Secretary, you quote a Home Office explanation that "eavesdropping by the Merseyside Police on their own telephone system was outside the scope of the [Interception of Communications] Act and would not require a warrant".

The UK Government is a signatory to the Council of Europe recommendation R(95)4 which concerns "the protection of personal data in the area of telecommunication services, with particular reference to telephone services". This provides protection to users of telecommunications systems and lays down rules with regard to "use of listening or tapping devices" by "public authorities".

Paragraph 2.4 of this recommendation states that such action

must be carried out only when this is provided for by law and constitutes a necessary measure in a democratic society in the interests of:

a. protecting state security, public safety, the monetary interest of the state or the suppression of criminal offences;

b. protecting the data subject [ie, the individual to whom the data relates] or the rights and freedoms of others.

It is interesting to speculate whether these criteria apply in Ms Halford's case.

Yours sincerely,
C. N. M. POUNDER
(Co-editor),
Data Protection News,
Cap Gemini UK,
95 Wandsworth Road, SW8.
March 18.

Love of the land

From Mr R. P. Voelcker

Sir, Sir John Acland (letter, March 15) implies that small farmers are good conservationists while large farmers are not. In a sense this is true, but it is mainly conservation by default, as small farms tend to occur where the land is unsuitable for arable cropping.

It is nonsense for Sir John to suggest that "vast areas of the countryside have been wrecked". Much of it is different from a century ago, as the needs of a much increased population, and war, have necessitated efficient arable cropping; but the only "greed" is that of the public for cheap food.

There could have been many more areas opened up solely for arable but many arable farmers enjoy country sports and are prepared to spend much of their profits in planting and maintaining woods and hedgerows for foxes and pheasants.

The worst thing that can happen to the preservation of the countryside as we know it — and it is still very beautiful — would be a ban on hunting and shooting. The environment necessary for foxes and pheasants is exactly the same as is needed by many other birds and most mammals.

If hunting is banned there would be nothing to stop most farmers from attempting to exterminate the fox. Spinneys, coverts and woodland would be cut down. Then there really would be a bare arable plain for the critics to complain about.

Yours faithfully,
R. P. VOELCKER,
Avils Farm,
Lower Stanton St Quintin,
Nr Chippenham, Wiltshire.
March 17.

Spain and Gibraltar

From the Ambassador of Spain

Sir, Your report (March 7) on schoolchildren travelling on a collective passport from Gibraltar who were denied entry to Spain diverges from the facts.

Spain recognises the Gibraltarians' right to circulate freely within the territory of the EU in strict accordance with Community rules, and will continue to do so. Consequently your correspondent's reference to a Spanish promise to "respect the validity of all travel documents issued in Gibraltar" is not accurate.

Spain does not refuse to acknowledge collective passports. What Spain does not accept, and never will, is a document which states "Gibraltar" as the "Country of issue". Gibraltar is not a country. This is the only reason why the document was not accepted.

On November 30, 1996, another collective passport issued on identical terms was equally rejected. Your report mentions the British Embassy in Madrid's statement suggesting that children were used "to pursue political aims". If anyone is in a position to make such a suggestion, it would have to be my Government.

Yours sincerely,
ALBERTO AZA,
Spanish Embassy,
24 Belgrave Square, SW1.
March 17.

Doctors who drink

From Dr Robert Lefever

Sir, In response to concerns expressed over a doctor remaining in work despite his heavy drinking, (report, March 6) a judge has recommended that doctors should have compulsory two-yearly health checks.

This is an excellent suggestion but it presupposes that doctors know how to diagnose the early stages of alcoholism, rather than the terminal phase, and that they would be prepared to express concern about colleagues' behaviour. This is something that tends not to happen while alcoholism is still generally perceived as a disgrace, or a product of weak will, rather than as an illness for which the sufferer can be given help.

Health checks are fine but they depend upon understanding in those doctors who perform them. The primary need is for advances in medical education on this subject.

Sincerely,
ROBERT LEFEVER,
2a Pelham Street, SW7.
March 6.

Churches in Scotland

From the Reverend Father Godfrey Hartley

Sir, In a report today, under the heading "Organ row threatens royal patronage of Balmoral church" you refer to "the Kirk Session, the elders who manage the affairs of Anglican churches in Scotland".

Neither Kirk Sessions nor elders manage Anglican affairs in Scotland, or elsewhere for that matter. Crathie Kirk is Church of Scotland (ie, Presbyterian) and not part of the Anglican Communion.

The Anglican Church in Scotland is the Episcopal Church, which is synodical and episcopal in government.

Yours sincerely,
GODFREY HARTLEY
(Secretary of the Missions to Seamen in Scotland, 1973-89),
Sandoes Gate,
Feock, Truro, Cornwall.
March 17.

Business letters, page 33

Preservation of Cabinet archives

From Dr John P. Fox

Sir, You report ("Cabinet told to save £7m by tackling 'paper mountain'", early editions, March 12) a potential conflict arising from the Cabinet's desire to save costs on the storage of government records and the needs of archivists and historians to preserve important documents for posterity.

There is a further factor about which you do not comment, which must apply in all departments of State in Whitehall: how will the ubiquitous use of computers and internal e-mail affect the written record of the government decision-making process that will be passed in the future to the Public Records Office for use by historians?

Do civil servants and ministers print out and retain every single policy document they draw up and communicate to each other through their computers, or have policy guidelines been laid down as to what levels of communication may be dispensed with through use of the dreaded "delete" key?

One of the real joys of working through British government papers at the PRO, certainly up to 1945, is that in general one can be sure that almost all of the important pieces of paper are there in the files.

Yours etc,
JOHN P. FOX
(Lecturer in Jewish history),
Jews' College, 44a Albert Road, NW4.
March 12.

In due order

From Mr Geoffrey Wheatcroft

Sir, In your obituary of Dame Veronica Wedgwood (March 11) you say that "even among her own sex she eventually had to yield pride of place to such younger successors as Cecil Woodham-Smith and Elizabeth Longford".

Mrs Woodham-Smith was born in 1896 and Lady Longford in 1906. C. V. Wedgwood was born in 1910. Since you are writing about historians, for whom accurate chronology is the first virtue, shouldn't you use words like "younger" with more precision?

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY WHEATCROFT,
The Express,
Ludgate House,
245 Blackfriars Road, SE1.
March 11.

Sexism at Cambridge

From Mr David St Vincent

Sir, Despite all the fuss about King's College banning the poster advertising Selwyn College's May ball because it was "degrading to women" (report and picture, March 13, early editions), sexism remains alive and well at King's.

At the same time as the college women's officer vetoed the poster, a notice was put up in our porter's lodge by the university Women's Campaign about a forthcoming women's event here. It ended by saying that men would be permitted entry "if accompanied by an adult".

Yours etc,
DAVID St VINCENT,
King's College, Cambridge.

Enoch's return

From Mr R. F. Coales

Sir, In your third leader today, "Posterity puzzle", you draw attention to Sir Max Beerbohm's account of Mr Enoch Soames's bargain with the Devil, which allowed him to visit the Reading Room of the British Museum as it would be 100 years later, on June 3, 1997.

For the purpose of the Devil's bargain the Reading Room needed to be much the same as in 1897. Soames would have been lost in St Pancras. It is hardly surprising then that the move to this site has been dogged by delays: their origin is clear.

I am sure that the move will go ahead without a hitch, once the anniversary is over.

Yours faithfully,
R. F. COALES,
Park House, West Rasen,
Market Rasen, Lincolnshire.
March 17.

From Mr Andrew Porter

Sir, If Enoch Soames, on his centenary visit to the Reading Room, consults the fifth edition of *Grove's Dictionary* (1954), he'll find he was not quite forgotten.

Federico Mompou's early piano pieces, he'll read, "suggest the lovely lines of Enoch Soames:

Pale tunes irresolute,
and traceries of old sounds,
blown from a rotted flute,
mingle with a noise of cymbals
rouged with rust".

In that wonderfully highflown Mompou entry, by Walter Starkie, Soames keeps company with Browning, Thornton Wilder and Sir Thomas Browne.

Grove's editor evidently swallowed a *jeu d'esprit* hook, line and sinker. When I cited it in a 1978 review of a recital by Mompou, and the *New Yorker* printer read "pale tunas irresolute", I was tempted to let his emendation stand.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW PORTER,
9 Pembroke Walk, W8.
March 17.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

March 19: His Excellency Mr John Bojang was received *in audience by* The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Commission as High Commissioner for the Republic of the Gambia in London.

Mrs Bojang was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

His Excellency Mr Surya Shrestha and Mrs Shrestha were received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador from the Kingdom of Nepal to the Court of St James's.

Her Majesty held a Council at 12.30 p.m.

There were present: The Rt Hon Antony Newton MP (Lord President), the Baroness Chalker of Wallasey (Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office), the Rt Hon Sir Patrick Mayhew MP (Secretary of State for Northern Ireland), the Rt Hon Roger Freeman MP (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster) and the Rt Hon *David Curry MP* (Minister of State, Department of the Environment).

Mr Nigel Nicholls was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

At the Council The Queen pricked the List of High Sheriffs for the Counties of England (other than Cornwall and those in the Duchy of Lancaster) and Wales.

The Rt Hon Antony Newton MP had an audience of Her Majesty before the Council.

After the Council, the Rt Hon Roger Freeman MP had an audience of The Queen when Her Majesty pricked the List of High Sheriffs for the Counties of the Duchy of Lancaster.

This afternoon The Queen, Patron, visited the Blue Cross Animals Hospital, Hugh Street, London SW1, in its Centenary year, and was received by the Chairman of the Board of Governors (Dr Alastair Porter) and the Chief Executive (Mr Alan Kennard).

Her Majesty this evening dined at the Connaught Hotel, London W1, on the occasion of the Hotel's Centenary, and was received by the Chairman of the Savoy Group (Sir Ewen Fergusson) and the Chairman of the Connaught Hotel (Sir Anthony Tuke).

The Duke of Edinburgh, President Emeritus, World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF International, this morning left Anchorage, Alaska, to fly to Canada.

His Royal Highness this afternoon arrived in Calgary, Alberta, and gave a Press Conference at the Palliser Hotel.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Founder and Chairman of the International Trustees, afterwards presented certificates to young people who have reached the Gold Standard in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Young Canadians Challenge.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Dinner for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Young Canadians Challenge at the *Bow Valley* Club, Calgary.

March 19: The Princess Royal, Patron, The Butler Trust, today presented the Annual Awards at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London SW7.

Her Royal Highness, President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, this afternoon attended a trustees meeting at the BT Centre, Newgate Street, London EC1.

The Princess Royal, Commandant in Chief, St John Ambulance and Nursing Cadets, this evening attended a Reception at Buckingham Palace.

CLARENCE HOUSE

March 19: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this afternoon received the Presidents of Queen Mary's Clothing Guild at St James's Palace on the occasion of the Guild's Annual General Meeting.

The Hon Mrs Rhodes was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

March 19: The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, SeeABILITY, today visited the Headquarters, 56-66 Highlands Road, Leatherhead. Afterwards Her Royal Highness, Patron, St John's School, visited the School, Epsom Road, Leatherhead, Surrey.

YORK HOUSE

March 19: The Duke of Kent this evening presented the Montblanc Award for patronage of the arts to Sir George Christie, at the National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

March 19: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this afternoon undertook engagements in Bermuda.

Her Royal Highness visited Arcadia, a home run by the Bermuda Mental Health Foundation, and later visited Stone Hall, a residential care facility run by Fair Havens Christian Care Association.

Princess Alexandra, Vice-President of the British Red Cross, accompanied by the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this evening attended a Reception and Dinner for the Bermuda Red Cross given by the Governor (HE the Rt Hon the Lord Waddington) at Government House, Hamilton.

Royal engagements

The Queen, as Patron, will visit the Royal College of Music, Prince Consort Road, South Kensington, at 2.45.

The Prince of Wales, will visit the *Wolverhampton Express and Star*, Queen Street, at 11.20; as President, The Prince's Trust, will attend a presentation on work of the trust at Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Ground, Molineux Stadium, at 12.20; will attend "Tomorrow's World Live at the NEC", Birmingham, at 2.05; and as President, The Prince's Trust, will attend the Royal Charity Premiere of *Star Wars* at the Odeon, Leicester Square, at 8.00.

The Princess Royal will attend the Faculty of Public Health Medicine spring meeting and deliver a lecture to mark the 25th anniversary at the Royal College of Physicians at 5.20.

Princess Margaret will attend a reception at the Imperial War Museum at 7.15 to mark the eightieth birthday of Dame Vera Lynn and view the Forties Fashion and the New Look exhibition.

The Duke of Gloucester, President, British Consultants Bureau, will attend a dinner at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, Knightsbridge, at 7.45.

The Duke of Kent, as Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, will visit United Kingdom Glass Eels, Hempsted Lane, Gloucester, at 10.45; and will open the media building at the Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education, The Park Campus, Cheltenham, at 11.35.

The Duchess of Kent, as President, will attend a performance of Werther at the Royal College of Music, Manchester, at 7.00.

Receptions

To General Valentina Tereshkova

Lady Lothian received the guests at a reception held yesterday at the Reform Club to mark the 60th birthday (March 6) of General Valentina Tereshkova, the first woman in Space. Mr Brian Gamble, Director of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, was the speaker.

Mozart Summer Festival

Mrs Eva Nowotney, the Austrian Ambassador, was the guest of honour at a reception held last night at the College of Arms of the 21st Mozart Summer Festival in Stately Homes and Country Houses after the opening concert. The guests were received by Garter King of Arms and the festival director.

£9,000 masterpiece is now worth millions

Restoration reveals hidden details

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

ROBIN MAYES



The Rev Bernard Hughes, senior hospital chaplain, looks at parts of the painting that were hidden

ONE of the greatest masterpieces by Veronese, the 16th-century Italian painter, has returned to the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital after a year-long restoration programme in which X-rays revealed dramatic changes to its composition. The removal of dark and yellowed glazing has uncovered radiant colours and details that had been lost for decades.

Robert Cocke, a leading Veronese scholar based at the University of East Anglia, expressed excitement at discovering that the figure of Christ in *The Resurrection* — a massive nine by five ft painting — had been reversed.

Veronese (circa 1528-88), a master of light and colour who specialised in biblical and historical subjects and who was inspired by Titian, decided to vary the pose. In doing so, he had moved away *from an earlier version of the* subject, which he painted for San Francesco della Vigna in Venice.

Dr Cocke said that the restoration had revealed a whole range of colours in the tradition of Titian and Bellini *that had been completely* concealed by dark glazes. Details such as a pair of sandals belonging to one of the sleeping soldiers are seen clearly for the first time: "The colours work in terms of the narrative, so you're aware of the visionary figure of Christ."

The hospital bought the painting in 1950 for a mere £9,000. Estimating its multi-million value today is difficult, Dr Cocke said. "There *has not been a comparable* picture on the market."

The painting was removed from the chapel in 1995, for an exhibition at the National Gallery in Athens, the first time it had left England since Sir James Wright, a wealthy traveller of the day, acquired it in Venice in 1767.

Susan Loppert, director of the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital Arts Project, explained that in 1950, the hospital chaplain, the Rev Christopher Hildyard, had wandered down Bond Street, in search of something to place over the altar. Having found the Veronese at Colnaghi's, he persuaded the trustees to agree that, if he raised £2,000 by public subscription, they would raise the rest. The picture will be unveiled on Monday.

Birthdays today

Professor Sir William Asscher, former Principal, St George's Hospital Medical School, 66; the Very Rev William Baddeley, former Area Dean of Westminster, 83; Dr Wendy Baron, head, Government Art Collection, 60; Mr Christopher Benstead, racehorse trainer, 68; Mr Anthony Blond, publisher, 69; Mr T.G.M. Brooks, Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire, 68; Sir Arnold Burgen, FRS, former Master, Darwin College, Cambridge, 75; Sir Stuart Burgess, chairman, Anglia and Oxford Regional Health Authority, 68; the Right Rev M.J. Conti, Bishop of Aberdeen, 63; Mr Charles Elly, former president, Law Society, 55; Mr Douglas French, MP, 53; Dr Ian J. Graham-Bryce, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Dundee University, 60; Mr William Hurt, actor, 47.

Mr Spike Lee, actor, film director and producer, 40; Dame Vera Lynn, singer, 80; Mr A-M. M'Bow, former director-general, Unesco, 76; Sir David Montgomery, Lord-Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross, 66; Mr Brian Mulroney, former Canadian Prime Minister, 58; the Hon Philip Oppenheim, MP, 41; Dr John Rae, former Head Master, Westminster School, 66; Mr Sviatoslav Richter, pianist, 82; Lord Justice Saville, 61; the Earl of Seafield, 58; Mr Greg Searle, rower, 25; Mr Adrian Snow, former Headmaster, The Oratory School, 58; Sir Harry Solomon, former chairman, Hillsdown Holdings, 60; Mr Tim Yeo, MP, 52.

Dinners

Buckinghamshire Lieutenancy

The Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, Sir Nigel Mobbs, was the host at a dinner held last night at Hampden House, Great Hampden, for the Buckinghamshire Lieutenants to dine out Mr John Paterson as Vice Lord-Lieutenant and to welcome Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher as the new Vice Lord-Lieutenant.

The Marquis of Huntly

The Marquis of Huntly last night entertained members and guests at the Institute of Commercial Management's Annual Dinner in the House of Lords. The guests included:

Professor Derek Gladwell, OBE, and Mrs Gladwell, Professor Alan Smithers, Professor Alasdair McIntyre, CBE, and Mrs McIntyre, Professor Thomas Garavan, Professor and Mrs Richard Condor, Professor and Mrs Michael Rimmington, Dr Pamela Robinson, Dr Norbert Schmitz and Dr and Mrs Laurie Mullins.

Royal College of Anaesthetists

Mr Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for Health, and Mr Gerald Malone, Minister for Health, attended the anniversary dinner of the Royal College of Anaesthetists held last night at Plaisterers' Hall. Professor Cedric Prys-Roberts, president, was the host. Professor Gareth Roberts, Vice-Chancellor of Sheffield University, was the speaker. Earlier Professor A. Angel delivered the Frederic Hewitt Lecture and the president presented Dr S.M. Lyons with the College Medal and Dr D.J. Greaves with the Fellowship *ad eundem*.

United & Cecil Club

Sir Sydney Chapman, MP, was the host at a dinner of the United & Cecil Club held last night at the House of Commons. Sir Marcus Fox, MP, chairman, presided. Mr Robert Worcester was the principal speaker and Mr Christopher Fenwick also spoke.

Justices' Clerks' Society

Mr Laurence Cramp, President of the Justices' Clerks' Society, was the host at the annual dinner held last night at Gray's Inn. The principal guests were the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice, the Master of the Rolls, the Attorney-General, the Home Secretary, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Mrs Justice Bracewell, and Mrs Justice Arden.

Service dinner

Inns of Court & City Yeomanry

The Earl of Limerick, Honorary Colonel of the Inns of Court & City Yeomanry, was the principal speaker at a dinner for serving and retired officers held last night at Lincoln's Inn to mark the retirement of Lieutenant-Colonel Rodney Parker as director of music.

Memorial service

Mr Mohamed Amin

A service of celebration for the life of Mr Mohamed Amin, the cameraman whose dramatic pictures of the Ethiopian famine in 1984 focused world attention on famine and helped to save many lives, was held yesterday at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street. Canon John Oates officiated.

Mr Salim Amin, son, Mr Mark Wood, Editor-in-Chief, Reuters, and Mr Michael Buerk gave addresses.

School news

Bradfield College

The Lent term ends on Saturday, March 22. The thirty third Bradfield Greek Play will be the *Oedipus Tyrannus* of Sophocles, directed by Hailz-Emily Osborne. Performances in the Greek Theatre will be from Friday, June 27 to Thursday, July 3, and at Thassos between July 14 and 28. Full details are available from the Play Secretary at Bradfield College, Reading, RG7 6AU (0118 9744208).

Eton College

Eton College closed yesterday.

The Newcastle Scholarship has been awarded to R.A. Eliot Lockhart OS and the Newcastle Medallist is R.V. Gowan KS.

The Rosebery Exhibition has been awarded to A.D.L.C-W. Zecha KS, the Huxley Prize to R.B.R. Harrison KS, the Keynes Prize to T.H. Gallico OS, the Newcastle Classical Prizes to J.P. Wootton OS, H.C.J. Power and B.M. Fowler and Her Majesty The Queen's Prize for French to G.J.L. Asprey and for German to S.A. Sorrell KS.

In the final of the House Football Dr T.C. Basey's defeated Mr P.R. Thackeray's by 11 points to 3. Mr C.W. Milne's won the Athletics Cup.

School opens for the Summer Half on April 16.

Lecture

The Royal Academy of Engineering

Sir David Davies, CBE, FEng, FRS, President of The Royal Academy of Engineering, presided at the 1997 Lloyd's Register Lecture held last night at 1, Hamilton Place, London. The guest speaker was Sir Robert Horton, Chairman of Railtrack plc, who spoke on 'Re-engineering Britain's Railways - Risks and Rewards'.

Meeting

European-Atlantic Group

Mr Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, MP, was in the chair at a meeting of the European-Atlantic Group held last night at the House of Commons. Commissioner Marcello Oreja, Spanish Commissioner at the European Commission, was the speaker. Later, Lord Dahrendorf, chairman of the group, presided at a dinner held at the St Ermin's Hotel, SW1.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Ovid, poet, Sulmona, Italy, 43 BC; Henrik Ibsen, dramatist, Skien, Norway, 1828; Beniamino Gigli, tenor, Recanati, Italy, 1890; Sir Michael Redgrave, actor, Bristol, 1908.

DEATHS: King Henry IV, reigned 1399-1413, London, 1413; Sir Isaac Newton, physicist, London, 1727; Frederick Louis, Prince of Wales, London, 1751; Lajos Kossuth, Hungarian nationalist, Turin, 1894; George Nathaniel Curzon, 1st Marquess Curzon of Kedleston, Viceroy of India 1898-1905, London, 1925; Ferdinand Foch, Marshal of France, Paris, 1929; Brendan Behan, writer, Dublin, 1964.

The Netherlands government formed the Dutch East India Company, 1602.

The foundation stone of Dartmoor Prison was laid, Devon, 1806.

Burlington Arcade opened in London, 1819.

Harriet Beecher Stowe's anti-slavery novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was first published, 1852.

Forthcoming marriages

Captain P.S. Cameron, RM, and Miss A.J. Nash

The engagement is announced between Peter, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Nigel Cameron, of Solihull, West Midlands, and Annabel, daughter of Mr Antony Nash, MBE, of East Butterleigh, Devon, and Mrs Martin Jacoby, of Cadiz, Spain.

Mr J.H. Day and Miss E.F. Saunders

The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Mr and Mrs Douglas Day, of London, and Elizabeth, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Saunders, of Caldicot, Monmouthshire.

M T.A. Decroix and Miss S.M.Q. Gill

The engagement is announced between Thierry, third son of M and Mme Guy Decroix, of Versailles, Paris, and Suzannah, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Malcolm Gill, of Aldingbourne, West Sussex.

Mr M.J. Lowrey and Miss S.L. Duggan

The engagement is announced between Mark, only son of Peter and Joan Lowrey, of London and Devon, and Siobhan, only daughter of Captain and Mrs Terence Duggan, of Highmoor, Oxon, and formerly of Hong Kong.

Mr S.A. Metcalfe and Miss D. Spicer

The engagement is announced between Scott, elder son of Mr and Mrs B. Metcalfe, of Brookmans Park, and Deborah, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Spicer, of Ware, Hertfordshire.

Mr S.C.C. Pryce and Miss K.M. Childs

The engagement is announced between Simon, elder son of Mr and Mrs Terry Pryce, of Brookmans Park, Hertfordshire, and Katharine, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Alister Childs, of Felsted, Essex.

Mr J-L.P. Deiches and Miss L.J. Clayton

The *engagement* is announced between Jean-Luc, son of Mrs Zoe Deiches, of Fulham, London, and Mr Lucien Deiches, of Monte Carlo, and Louisa, daughter of Mrs Diana Corbett, of Chiswick, London, and the late Mr Roderick Clayton.

***Mr J.D. Stichbury* and Miss R.G. McIntosh**

The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs Richard Stichbury, of Edinburgh, and Rowena, daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin McIntosh, of Paris, France.

***Mr R.W. Turner* and Miss V.M. Shrive**

The engagement is announced between Roger, son of the late Mr Eric Turner and of Mrs John Cowan, of London and Cape Town, and Victoria, elder daughter of Mr John Shrive and the late Mrs Shrive, of Norfolk.

Mr J.M. Yeomans and Miss G.S. Keen

The engagement is announced between Julian, second son of Mr and Mrs Peter Yeomans, of Burley, Hampshire, and Gaynor, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Bernard Keen, of Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

Marriage

Mr C.D.M. Loane and Miss S.C. Mahon

The marriage took place at Battersea Parish Church on Saturday, March 8, 1997, between Charles David Montgomery Loane, son of Mr and Mrs Warren Loane, of Crocknacrieve, Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh, and Sarah Caroline Mahon, daughter of the late Sir George Mahon, Bt, of Castlegar, Co Galway, and of Suzanne, Lady Mahon, now of Winchester, Hampshire.

High Sheriffs

The Queen in Council has appointed the following to be High Sheriffs in 1997:

England (except Cornwall, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Lancashire):

Bedfordshire - Charles Terence Lousada, Husborne Crawley, Bedford; Berkshire - Major John Roy Trustram Eve, Waltham St Lawrence, Twyford; Buckinghamshire - Denis James Burrell, Denham; Cambridgeshire - David Temple Ramply, Great Paxton, Huntingdon; Cheshire - Edward Simon Tudor-Evans, Congleton; City of Bristol - Richard Appleby Lalonde, Clifton, Bristol; Cumbria - John Henry Fryer-Spedding, Keswick; Derbyshire - Richard Herbert Arthur Perkins, Burton-on-Trent; Devon - Noel Frederic Augustus Page-Turner, Woodhayes, Honiton; Dorset - Richard Walter Fielding, Longburton, nr Sherborne; Durham - Michael Philip Weston, Durham City; East Riding of Yorkshire - Peter William John Carver, North Cave; East Sussex - John Whitmore, Hartfield; Essex - Robert Felix Erith, Lamarsh, Bures; Gloucestershire - William Gregory Francis Meath-Baker, Hasfield; Greater London - William Robert Harrison, London SW3; Hampshire - Mrs Lindsay Garrett Fox, Cheriton, nr Alresford; Hereford and Worcester - Michael Eliot Howard, Sankyns Green, Little Witley; Hertfordhsire - Richard Walduck, Hatfield; Isle of Wight - Richard Linthorn Bradbeer, Cowes; Kent - Edwin Roy Pratt Boorman, Wateringbury; Leicestershire - David Chetwode Samworth, Thorpe Satchville, Melton Mowbray; Lincolnshire - Lady Bruce-Gardyne, Aswardby, Spilsby; Norfolk - Lady Evans-Lombe, Marlingford Hall, Norwich; Northamptonshire - Arthur Robert Heygate, Bugbrooke; Northumberland - Alexander Gordon Parrott Ramsey, Corbridge; North Yorkshire - Anthony Guy Swaine Chisenhale-Marsh, Mickley, Ripon; Nottinghamshire - Hugh Patrick Matheson, Newark; Oxfordshire - Lady French, Ipsden; Rutland - David Barry Owen, Teigh, Oakham; Shropshire - Lady Forester, Broseley; Somerset - Richard Stanton Roy Sheldon, Pilton, Shepton Mallet; South Yorkshire - Michael John Mallett, Sheffield; Staffordshire - Gerald Raymond Tams, Stafford; Suffolk - Jonathan Martin Paul, Freston, Ipswich; Surrey - James Douglas Moir Robertson, Sunbury-on-Thames; Tyne and Wear - Mrs Sylvia Margaret Murray, Whitley Bay; Warwickshire - The Hon Lady Butler, Lighthorne, Warwick; West Midlands - Edward Michael Worley, Edgbaston, Birmingham; West Sussex - Colonel Sir Brian Walter De Stopham Bartielot, Stopham Park, Pulborough; West Yorkshire - Frederick Thomas Benson Jowitt, Littlethorpe, Ripon; Wiltshire - John Barnard Bush, Heywood, Westbury.

Wales

Clwyd - Colonel Sir Charles Douglas Lowther, Wrexham; Dyfed - Commander Huw Ceiriog Lloyd-Williams, Llanbedr P.S., Ceredigion; Gwent - Andrew Murray Kerr, Llanfair Kilgeddin, Abergavenny; Gwynedd - Mrs Ella Wynne Jones, Llandecwyn, Talsarnau; Mid Glamorgan - Raymond William Martin, Llangewydd, nr Bridgend; Powys - The Hon Mrs Rosalind Helen Penrose Price, Llanbedr, Crickhowell; South Glamorgan - John Wilson Phillips, Ystradowen, nr Cowbridge; West Glamorgan - Paul Jeremy Hodges, Southgate, Swansea.

Duchy of Lancaster

The Queen pricked the names of the following High Sheriffs on the Lites for the coming year:

Lancashire - Sir David Trippier, Rossendale; Greater Manchester - Warren James Smith, Fallowfield, Manchester; Merseyside - Brian Thaxter, Mollington, Chester.

Legal appointment

Mr Peter Robiant to be a full-time Chairman of Industrial Tribunals, assigned to the Bedford Region.

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When God commands, his will is done, and no one can thwart his saving power. The deeds of all mankind lie plain before him and there is no hiding from his eyes. Ecclesiasticus 39 : 18,19

BIRTHS

ATKINSON-DALZIEL - On 12th January at home, to Kate Dalziel and John Atkinson, a beautiful son, Andrew Frederick Keith, a brother for Patrick and Shona.

BROUGHTON - On March 17th at The Portland Hospital, to Sarah and Jamie, a son, George Allwyn James, a brother for Sophie and Emily.

CLARKE - On March 14th in Singapore, to Audrie (née Helstrip) and Simon, a son, Peter Montgomery Garrett, a brother for Archie.

CLAYHILLS-HENDERSON - Christopher and Pamela (née Stewart) are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Helena Elizabeth, on March 17th 1997, a sister for Alexander.

de SMITH - On Monday March 17th, to Nicola (née Fetter) and Richard, a son, Conor.

HEATH - On February 24th, to Sunniva (née Fox) and Martin, a son, William Frank Jeremy.

HELSTRIP - See Clarke.

MACINTOSH - On March 5th, to Elona (née Freeman) and Patrick, a beautiful daughter, Olivia Jane.

MOLYNEUX-CHILD - On February 27th 1997, to Marianne and Patrick, a beautiful daughter, Josephine Rebecca Anne.

PICKERING - On March 14th at The Portland Hospital, to Helen (née Stewart-Jones) and Gareth, a son, Oliver William John, a brother for Harry.

PRATT - On 11th March at Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow, to Samantha and Steven, a son, Thomas.

READ CUTTING - To Harriet and Ed, a second son born 18th March in Brussels.

RICHARDSON - On March 17th 1997, to Nikki (née Evennett) and Brian, a son, James Angus, a brother for Ben.

RICHMOND - On March 13th, to Fiona (née Trout) and Peter, a daughter, Holly Jane, a sister for Jack.

TER KUILE - On 14th March, to Boudewyn and Tracy (née Benatar), a beautiful daughter, Sophie Elizabeth, a sister for Victoria.

BIRTHS

TAXIS BORDOGNA VALMARA - On 17th March 1997, to Baron William and Baroness Miranda (née Dunne), a daughter, Isabella Mary Alice.

WALTON - On March 13th 1997, to Emma (née Chetwynd Stapylton) and Matthew, a daughter, Poppy Olivia.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BRADMAN - Sue and Jo wish to thank all friends and relatives for their wonderful support and expressions of sympathy at this sad time. They would also like to express their gratitude to all the nurses and doctors who cared for Tony over the last 18 months, particularly those on Ward 16, Ntinewells and Ward 5, DRI.

DEATHS

ARBUTHNOT - Irene Joan Grace on 17th March 1997. Peacefully at the Sacred Heart Nursing Home, Youghal, Co. Cork in her 93rd year. Daughter of the late Major and Mrs J.B. Arbuthnot of Myrtle Grove. Much loved aunt and great-aunt. Removal from Murphy's Funeral Home, to Saint Mary's Collegiate Church on Friday 21st March at 7 pm. Funeral 3 pm Saturday 22nd March.

BENSON - On March 15th 1997 suddenly but peacefully in his sleep, David, Major R.A. (retired). Beloved husband of Gabrielle and much loved father of Tony and Hester. Funeral Service at St Andrew's Church, Hope Bowdler, on March 27th at 1.30 pm followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to Hope Bowdler Parish Church. Enquiries to: (01743) 344646.

BUSS - Vivian died peacefully on 17th March 1997 aged 86. Much loved father of David, Mary and Stephen. Also dearly loved by his 9 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Funeral Service at West Herts Crematorium, Garston, on Tuesday 25th March at 12.15 pm. Any enquiries to Field & Hamley, (0181) 950-7233.

DEATHS

CARPENTER - Elizabeth Nora (Betty), widow of Geoffrey, peacefully on March 17th after a short illness. Funeral Service at the Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham, on 26th March at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to R.S.P.C.A. c/o H.C. Grimstead Ltd., tel: (01494) 672668.

CLARKE - Peter, dearest friend, died suddenly on 14th March, aged 51. Funeral service and cremation at 12 noon, 23rd March, at West Norwood Crematorium, London SE27. Donations to Cancer Research Fund c/o E.L. Wickes & Son, 114 Denmark Hill, London SE5.

COATES - Austin Francis Harrison, author, son of Eric Coates, died peacefully in Portugal on 18th March aged 74.

De VERE - Joan, beloved mother of Geraldine, Mary-Ann, Anthony and Paul, died suddenly at home on Monday 17th March. Service to take place Wednesday 26th March, Christ the Prince of Peace, Weybridge, 10am. Family flowers only, donations to Richard Jenner Memorial Trust c/o Walter G. Wortt, Addlestone.

HARDY - Ivy V, aged 98, widow of Vernon Hardy, passed peacefully at Westhouspsett Nursing Home, Chichester, on 15th March. Mother of Elizabeth and Dick, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral at Chichester Crematorium on Tuesday 25th March at 2.30pm. No flowers please.

HIGHGATE - Suddenly but peacefully, in Uddingston on 16th March 1997, James Brown Knight Batchelor CBE, MA, LLB. Dearly loved brother of Elizabeth Thomson and dear uncle of Douglas. Formerly Senior Partner of Brownlie Watson and Beckett and latterly consultant with Miller Beckett and Jackson and life long member and elder of Park Church Uddingston. Funeral Service at Park Church, 10.30am on Friday 21st March 1997 and committal thereafter at Daldowie Crematorium, Broomhouse (East Chapel), at 12 noon. All friends are respectfully invited to either or both Services. No flowers please.

JEFFREY - Doris Mackay passed away suddenly on March 13th 1997 aged 80. Beautiful and intelligent, beloved wife of Dr. Manfred Jeffrey (deceased September 1995), she will be sadly missed by all who knew her. Deeply mourned by brother John and his family, daughter Tanya and son-in-law Raymond, son Nicholas and daughter-in-law Dianne, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

KESTELMAN - Dorothy Mary, wife of Morris Kestelman and mother of Sara, died peacefully in hospital aged 87 on Saturday 15th March after a long illness. Cremation Wednesday 26th March, 12 noon at Golders Green Crematorium. Flowers and enquiries to Levenson & Sons, 181 Haverstock Hill, NW3 4QS, tel: (0171) 586-4221.

MAXWELL - Rear Admiral Thomas Heron Maxwell CB, DSC. Peacefully at home on March 15th 1997, after a long illness borne with dignity and courage. Loved husband of Maeve, father of Conor, Kate, Brigid and Robert. Sadly missed by all his family. Funeral Service St Julian's Church, Wellow on Friday March 21st, at 10.30am. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The Dorothy House Foundation, Winsley, Bradford-on-Avon BA15 2LE.

MITCHELL - Brigadier J.A.H. (Alastair), R.A., C.B.E., D.S.O., died 18th March. Much loved husband of Mary and beloved by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Remembrance and Thanksgiving Service, St Mary's, Bibury, Gloucestershire, 2.30 pm Thursday 27th March.

PATEL - Dosab. Former Judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan; Fellow, London School of Economics, passed away peacefully in Karachi on 15th March 1997.

RADFORD - Elizabeth (Betty), wife of the late Brigadier W.B. (George) Radford MBE, MC, peacefully at home on 17th March after a short illness. Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday 25th March at 2 pm at St Mary the Virgin, Charminster. No flowers please. Donations, if desired, to Marie Curie Cancer Care, Blandford Community Hospital, Blandford DT11 7DD.

RUDD - Jean Metcalfe (née Morrison) peacefully on March 18th, aged 85. Beloved wife of the late Cecil Wallace Rudd, very dearly loved mother of Christopher and Pen and grandmother of Alastair. The funeral will take place at St Mary's Church, Stoughton at 3 pm on Wednesday March 26th followed by private cremation. Family flowers only to Edward White, 5 South Pallant, Chichester. Any donations to the NSPCC please.

TAK - Reverend Ernest, on 10th March 1997 at Lahore. Poet, administrator and much loved father, father-in-law and grandfather.

ZIMMERMANN - Fred on March 14th died peacefully at home in London. Beloved husband of Renée and father of Tim. Private Service in memory will be held Sunday March 23rd. Family and close friends only by request. An official memory Memorial Service will be announced shortly. No flowers please. Donations if desired to Retinoblastoma Society c/o Academic Department of Paediatric Oncology, St Bartholomew's Hospital, West Smithfield, London EC1 7BE.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

GOYDER - George. A Memorial Service for George Goyder CBE (1908-1997) will be held at 3 pm on Wednesday 2nd April at St James's, Piccadilly.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

MOSES - Irene Grace Ruth, died 20th March 1994. Sadly missed by Antoinette, John, Isobel, Alan, Natasha, Rebecca and Christopher.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

RUCKER - John Patrick Charles, June 11th 1928 - March 20th 1967. Deeply loved and always remembered by all his family.

BIRTHDAYS

TIM SIMMONS Happy 18th Birthday. The world is your oyster, enjoy it. With all our love, Dad, Mum and Greg.

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OBITUARIES

ERIK DE MAUNY

Erik de Mauny, broadcaster and foreign correspondent, died on March 18 aged 76. He was born on September 17, 1920.



Erik de Mauny with the Prince of Wales in 1975

As one of the once-legendary corps of BBC foreign correspondents, Erik de Mauny not only fitted the bill but lived the part. Colourful, bohemian and slightly louche, he always had a career quite separate from the one he pursued in front of the microphone. In fact, his first book — a novel — was published in 1948 even before he joined the BBC (at first for the External Services in Bush House) and his immediate superior there was once heard to remark that he always thought of de Mauny more as an author *than as a journalist.*

Although born in London, the son of a violinist and a pianist (his paternal grandfather was Norman French — hence his name), Erik de Mauny was brought up in New Zealand, where his father had gone for the sake of his health after being gassed in the First World War. (He subsequently became founder and first conductor of what is now the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.)

The young de Mauny was educated at Wellington College and at Victoria University College, Wellington. He then served his journalistic apprenticeship on the *Dominion and New Zealand Listener* before enlisting as a volunteer with the New Zealand Second Expeditionary Force. He spent the war in the Pacific, the Middle East and Italy, ending up (as he was always proud to boast) with the rank of substantive corporal. But his war service was, in fact, more valuable than his rank might suggest, as he had, among other things, run the French Section of the Radio Monitoring Service at GHQ Cairo.

After the war he came to London to study Russian (which, like French, he learnt to speak fluently) at London University. He freelanced during this period for various publications, and was very much part of the "Fitzrovia" culture which grew up in and around Broadcasting House in Portland Place. His novel — *The Huntsman in his Career* (1948) — was about the lives of three New Zealanders, one of whom is shot by the other who, in turn, is then pursued by the third as a fugitive from justice. Written while he was still a student, it achieved a respectful review in *The Times Literary Supplement*, to which de Mauny was later to become a frequent, though (in those days) necessarily anonymous, contributor.

He joined the BBC as an External Services sub-editor in 1949, characteristically (with one book behind him) giving his occupation as "author" on his application form. At that time progress up the ladder within the BBC was notoriously slow and it was not until 1955 that he became a foreign duty editor in the Foreign News Department. His first real break came three years later, when he was appointed the BBC's Balkans Correspondent working out of Vienna. Two years after that, he was moved to Beirut as Middle East Correspondent before in 1962 being sent to the plum posting of Washington as the number two figure in the BBC bureau there.

Until that point, his had been a creditable, if scarcely sparkling, BBC career. All that changed, however, when in 1963 he was appointed the BBC's first Moscow correspondent (to its credit, the BBC had previously refused to appoint a resident correspondent in protest against the jamming of its airwaves by the Soviet Union — a practice under Khrushchev that had just stopped).

Moscow was the capital, with his knowledge of Russian, in which de Mauny had always wanted to serve, and he certainly arrived at a propitious moment. One of his first assignments was to cover the trial of the alleged British spy Greville Wynn, and he also had a seat in the stalls for the fall of Khrushchev on October 15, 1964, the same date as the British general election of that year (though, fortunately for the Labour Party, too late to affect its result).

While he was in Beirut, de Mauny had got to know "Kim" Philby, unmasked as "the third man" just before he arrived in Moscow for the BBC. By dint of considerable pertinacity he eventually obtained a meeting with him, matching him, according to his own subsequent account, "drink for drink". The result, as he used wryly to recall, was that the next morning he could remember absolutely nothing of what Philby had said. It is only fair to add that an equally plausible explanation for what did, or did not, make it into a BBC news script was de Mauny's own scrupulous sense of integrity: he would not have regarded it as right to transform what had been intended as social reunion into a professional scoop.

While in Moscow, de Mauny began to write what was probably his best known book, *Russian Prospect* (1969). A candid account of what Moscow can be like for a Western correspondent, it even includes the diagnosis of a hitherto unheard of clinical condition, *Moscow Blues* — the term he invented to describe those days when all the frustrations and obstacles prove too much and the only possible course seems to be to pull the bedclothes over one's head for the next 24 hours, heedless of calls from London or anything else. (There was sometimes more than a touch of Malcolm Muggeridge about de Mauny and this book certainly echoed the former's *Winter in Moscow*, published 35 years earlier.)

In 1966, after three exacting years, de Mauny was moved from Moscow to the softer political climate of Paris, where he remained as the BBC's correspondent until 1972. At his own request he then returned to Moscow for a further two-year spell between 1972 and 1974, though this time, given the expansion of the bureau, purely as the radio correspondent. He was always a wireless man through and through and his excursions into television were rare and not very much enjoyed. The programme with which he was most associated in his later years was Radio 4's *The World Tonight*, which he both contributed to and presented.

Erik de Mauny retired from the BBC in 1980, and initially went to live with his wife and children in France, from where he wrote a number of book reviews, particularly for the *Financial Times*. He and his family returned to this country some ten years ago, living first in Yorkshire and then in Lancaster. He is survived by his second wife Elizabeth — he was first married to an Egyptian Denyse Aghion — and by their son and daughter.

KENNETH ROWNTREE



Kenneth Rowntree, artist and Professor of Fine Art at Newcastle University, 1959-80, died on February 21 aged 81. He was born on March 14, 1915.

THE work of Kenneth Rowntree encompassed a wide variety of subjects, styles and media. There were domestic interiors and kitchen-based still-lifes; works which focused on the garden as a site of innocence and stillness; large-scale public murals; collages; abstract paintings with a carefully restricted geometric vocabulary; shrewd and vivid studies of the British landscape. All were direct yet richly complex. All were characterised by vitality, invention and sharp observation, and by the genial disposition of the artist.

Kenneth Rowntree was born in Scarborough. Brought up as a Quaker, he moved south to Oxford to attend the Ruskin School of Drawing, where he was taught by Albert Rutherston. He later studied at the Slade School of Art in London under Randolph Schwabe.

His first solo show was not until 1946, at the Leicester Galleries, London, when he was 31; three years later he exhibited there again. He showed his early works, evocative landscapes and pared-down still-lifes, which led to many commissions in the late 1940s and 1950s. These included book jackets for the Pilot Press, murals for the 1951 Festival of Britain and for P&O, and coloured glass screens produced in collaboration with Erno Goldfinger for the Ministry of Health buildings at Elephant and Castle, London.

Because of his Quaker beliefs Rowntree had been granted exemption from military service in the Second World War, but he worked alongside other war artists on such projects as decorating the many canteens which were hastily erected to feed workers and others, during the Blitz and afterwards.

In response to a commission from the Pilgrim Trust, he became involved in the scheme called *Recording Britain*, for which artists were sent to various sites around the country to document the effects of the war. Rowntree's sympathetic watercolours of Wales, and his presence in the Portmadoc area are still remembered with fondness, his cheerful personality overriding the accompanying memories of the hardships of war.

Rowntree painted outdoors directly from the landscape, as well as in the studio, intuitively documenting his thoughts and perceptions of his surroundings. John Piper once described him as always having "an eye for things in the countryside . . . that needed noticing, and had, to date, been little noticed".

The year 1949 marked the beginning of his ten-year period of teaching at the Royal College of Art. Among his pupils at that time was John Bratby. He was also a visiting lecturer at the Ruskin School of Drawing on several occasions.

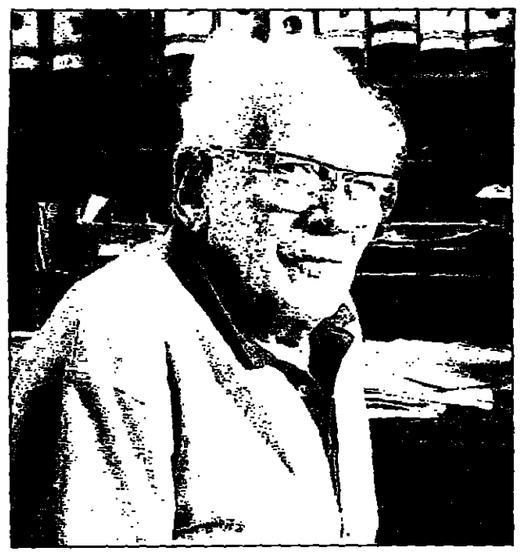
He was awarded a Ford Foundation Grant for 1958-59, which enabled him to visit America for the first time and led to a series of watercolours based on the striking scenery of Nantucket, New England, and the arid plains of New Mexico. On his return he took over from Lawrence Gowing as Professor of Fine Art at the University of Newcastle, a position he was to hold for more than 20 years.

In his early years at Newcastle he first experimented with abstraction. At this time Victor Pasmore was also working at the university; his abstract canvases must have been of significance to Rowntree, although for Rowntree the distinction between figurative and abstract art was by no means as clear as it was for Pasmore. Rowntree continued to work on landscapes, and his use of still-life subjects for his collages allowed him to experiment with the representation of the subject matter, presenting common and accessible objects in an innovative and ever-changing way.

After retiring from his Newcastle chair in 1980, Rowntree continued to live and work in the Tyne valley. His retirement was marked by an exhibition at the university's Hatton Gallery, and his commitment to the area through the 1960s and 1970s was commemorated by a retrospective of more than 90 paintings as part of the Hexham Abbey Festival in 1988. Another large exhibition took place in Saffron Walden in 1995, and Rowntree's work is in important public and private collections in Britain and abroad.

He is survived by his wife Diana and by a son and a daughter.

MAX STERNE



Max Sterne, research veterinarian, died on February 26 aged 91. He was born on June 1, 1905.

IN THE 1880s Louis Pasteur explored the possibility of vaccinating animals against anthrax. He reduced the virulence of anthrax bacilli by heating so that they would no longer kill an animal but would make it immune to infection by the wild-type virulent strain. However, the vaccine was difficult to reproduce consistently on a commercial basis. It was not until Max Sterne returned to the study of the problem in the 1930s that a safe, reproduceable and effective vaccine was pioneered.

Sterne showed that one particular avirulent non-capsulated strain, the so-called "Sterne strain," could immunise small animals, including guinea pigs, against virulent challenge. This was subsequently confirmed in large animals, and the strain has been used as an avirulent live spore vaccine up to the present day. Only recently it was used to protect animals in the Kruger Park from anthrax, using helicopters to "dart" the animals with special rifles; a similar vaccine is used for human immunisation in Russia and China.

Max Sterne was born in Trieste of Austrian parents, and went with them to South Africa at the age of four. He became an accomplished sportsman, excelling in boxing, swimming and running. He was South African Universities Welterweight Champion, South African 100 yards Freestyle Champion, and South African 100 yards Athletic Champion.

Sterne studied veterinary science at the then Transvaal University College (Pretoria University) and after two years on a cattle ranch in the Belgian Congo he secured a post at the Government Centre near Pietermaritzburg, mainly testing field samples. In 1935 he obtained a post at the Veterinary Research Station at Onderstepoort where he carried out his classic work on the anthrax bacillus.

The vaccine which Sterne developed and which has been shown to be safe and effective in prolonged use would have difficulty in being licensed today as the loss of virulence arises from a single point and not multipoint mutation — a factor which would have given rise to serious concerns on reversion to virulence and safety. Unfortunately, also, his work did not gain the instant recognition it deserved, partly because it was first reported in the *Ondersterpoort Journal*, which at that time was a relatively obscure publication.

In 1946 Sterne came to England, after he was awarded a scholarship, to obtain his diploma in bacteriology. This was a visit which had previously been delayed by the outbreak of war in 1939. He returned to Onderstepoort in 1948 but in 1951 returned to England with his wife since they disapproved of the Nationalist Government's policies in South Africa. They settled in west London, and he joined the Veterinary Department of the Wellcome Research Laboratories at Beckenham, Kent, headed by Dr Montgomerie, the company's Chief Veterinarian.

In addition to pursuing his previous interests in anthrax and botulism, Sterne expanded his horizons to those of bacterial culture, with a view to large-scale production of bacterial antigens for vaccine components. He carried out work both on classical fermentation and the technique of growing organisms in cellophane sacs immersed in the growth medium. Using the latter method which allowed nutrients to diffuse into the sac and waste products out, he was able to achieve very high yields of Cl.botulinum toxins types C and D with a high degree of purity.

In 1959 he transferred to the department of anaerobic bacteriology which was concerned with research, development and production of vaccines against clostridial diseases. As a result of his work, particularly developments in fermentation, Wellcome were able to introduce in 1961 the first multicomponent clostridial vaccine, Covexin 7, capable of protecting sheep against seven major diseases simultaneously. This vaccine was so remarkable that for over a decade it remained the market leader and similar vaccines subsequently introduced by competitors were merely copies.

In the mid-1960s, Sterne was appointed head of the department of aerobic bacteriology where his interests were expanded into the area of medical vaccines. His wise counsel was instrumental in the improvement of Wellcome vaccines such as those against whooping cough and typhoid. When he finally retired, he could look back over a long period of technological advancement and commercial success. He undertook a number of consultancies for the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and for the World Health Organisation. In 1985, at the age of 80, he travelled to Texas to receive the Karl F. Meyer Gold Cane of the American Veterinary Epidemiological Society for services to animal medicine.

Yet, despite his prowess as a scientist, Sterne sought little acknowledgement for himself. Part of his endearing nature was his slight absent-mindedness and, on occasions, lack of practicality. His original work on anthrax would in today's climate have almost certainly led to his election as a Fellow of the Royal Society. It would, indeed, have been a fitting recognition of a long and illustrious career. But fortunately his name is preserved in history as long as the "Sterne strain" is used for anthrax vaccination.

In retirement Sterne was totally immersed in his family and in his passion for sailing and swimming. In 1932 he had married Tikvah Alper, a distinguished scientist in the field of radiobiology but later concerned with the transmissible agent in scrapie and mad cow disease. She died in 1995. He is survived by two sons.

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MONUMENTS OF BRITAIN

The Commissioners of Works publish to-day for the first time a complete list of the monuments to which State protection has been granted under the Ancient Monuments Consolidation and Amendment Act (1913).

The book contains the names of more than 2,500 monuments, ranging from pre-historic camps, stone circles, and barrows to the remains of abbeys, castles, bridges, and even relatively modern buildings of special interest. The primary object of the lists is to register the fact that the preservation of these monuments is of national importance, and to enlist the interest of the owners and of others in their protection. Further provisions of the Act are designed to minimise the danger of unsuitable treatment or of exploration by unqualified persons.

The great majority of the monuments lately scheduled are of the prehistoric kind. They include 61 stone circles or standing stones, 96 prehistoric tumuli, and 77 camps and earthworks. The most important addition is that of the Roman wall from Newcastle-upon-Tyne to Carlisle. Protection for what remains of this famous wall has long been contemplated, but difficulty was experienced in tracing and sending out notices to nearly 400 separate owners. The work has now been completed, and not only is the wall itself scheduled, but also the stone-built camps, of which there are a certain number, the mile castles which occur, roughly, at a distance of every Roman mile, the turrets and subsidiary works, and the earthwork or vallum, running at varying distances to the south of the stone wall, which appears to represent the original boundary line. It is generally assumed that Hadrian's Wall was primarily a frontier boundary and only in a secondary sense a defensive work.

Two other earth-works of a somewhat similar character havea recently been scheduled. One of these is Offa's Dyke, considered to have been thrown up by King Offa of Mercia at the end of the eighth century to form a boundary between his dominions and the Welsh tribes. The other is Grymes Dyke, in Herefordshire, which appears to be a tribal boundary of late prehistoric date — probably the first century B.C. — and to represent a stage in the pre-Roman settlement of England by an immigrant race.

Scheduled buildings of medieval date are fewer in the additions to the list for the reason that all the most important monuments of this class have long been included.

ON THIS DAY

March 20, 1929

When the first complete list of monuments which had been given state protection was published in 1929, the most important addition to the list was said to be the Roman Wall from Newcastle upon Tyne to Carlisle.

NEWS

Blair attack over sleaze report

■ Tony Blair last night led an unprecedented move to prevent Parliament from rising tomorrow for the general election in an attempt to force publication of the report on the cash-for-questions affair.

He was joined by Paddy Ashdown, other minority leaders and the entire Shadow Cabinet in calling for the session to be extended amid claims that the Government had timed the prorogation to avoid publication of the report until after the election. The report will be ready next week. Even the Queen was embroiled in the dispute ..... **Page 1**

Leading ladies meet for lunch

■ Political animosity was off the menu as Britain's leading ladies met for lunch. Norma Major and Cherie Blair united briefly to present awards for courage and bravery ..... **Page 1**

Unqualified praise

The top award in British architecture has been given to a man with no professional qualifications in a move that will bring new hope to thousands of designers and technicians ..... **Page 1**

SAS rescue

A British aid worker described how he was rescued by the SAS from southern Albania and flown to safety ..... **Page 1**

Doctor jailed

A doctor faces being struck off the Medical Register after being jailed for three months for indecently assaulting a nurse. Manchester Crown Court heard that he often engaged in sexual banter ..... **Page 3**

Off the rails

The new owners of Regional Railways North East have fallen foul of their local Passenger Transport Authority after cancelling 49 trains in one day ..... **Page 5**

Patient heal thyself

A campaign to encourage patients to look after their own health over Easter so family doctors can have a holiday was announced by the British Medical Association ..... **Page 4**

Blots on landscape

A campaign against disfigurement of the countryside was launched with an attack on road signs, rural architecture and mobile phone masts ..... **Page 8**

Less sex, please

The British are much less sexually active than suggested by glossy magazines, the advertising industry and television dramas ..... **Page 10**

Threat to dynasties

Some of the most distinguished political dynasties of the last 700 years will lose their voting rights in the House of Lords under Labour and Liberal Democrat party proposals for electoral reform ..... **Page 11**

Refugee emergency

Italy declared a state of emergency to cope with the influx of more than 10,000 refugees from Albania ..... **Page 15**

Jerusalem threat

Egypt and Syria warned Israel that it was pushing the Middle East into a new confrontation as the Supreme Court rejected two petitions to halt construction of a settlement for 32,000 Jews in east Jerusalem ..... **Page 17**

Warriors' windfall

An oil and gas find in the southern highlands of Papua New Guinea is poised to hurl the Huli Wig Men tribe of warriors into fabulous wealth ..... **Page 18**

Hong Kong feud

No present-day resentment endures more bitterly than Sir Percy Cradock's toward Chris Patten, the Hong Kong Governor, says Jonathan Mirsky ..... **Page 19**

Princess lookalike abdicates

■ A woman who has made a career out of being a Diana, Princess of Wales, lookalike is to retire after ten years because of the strain. Christina Hance, 36, who has earned up to £5,000 a day, says she can no longer cope and has found herself suffering similar problems to her alter ego. "Being Diana sent me mad and made me very ill," she said ..... **Page 9**

ALEXANDRE DEMYANCHUK / REUTER



Flag day: Russian and American flags on sale in Helsinki for today's summit between Presidents Yeltsin and Clinton **Page 14**

BUSINESS

Jobless down: Unemployment fell 68,200 to 1.74 million in February, or 6.2 per cent of the workforce. Average earnings increased by five per cent ..... **Page 29**

Higher sales: High street sales were stronger than expected in February, reviving speculation that an incoming Chancellor will be forced to raise rates ..... **Page 29**

Telephone bid: Talk of a Cable & Wireless bid for Sprint, America's third largest telephone group, delayed the opening of the US company's shares in New York ... **Page 29**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 24.6 points to 4332.2. The pound rose 1.08 cents to $1.5968 and 2.07 pfennigs to DM2.6850, lifting the sterling index to 96.3 from 95.7 ..... **Page 32**

SPORT

Football: The second leg of the Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final against SK Brann of Bergen and the next six weeks of the domestic season will show what Roy Evans's Liverpool are made of ..... **Page 56**

Golf: European tournament professionals are to be balloted over the composition of the team which will face the United States in the Ryder Cup ..... **Page 50**

Cricket: The entire Sussex committee resigned an hour into the annual meeting at the Grand Hotel, Brighton ..... **Page 56**

Racing: Only 54 horses were left in the Grand National at the second forfeit stage, raising fears that the race will again fall short of a 40-runner maximum field ..... **Page 53**

ARTS

Tribute to Wilde: Simon Callow reveals his versatility as an actor in his fine West End revival of Micheál MacLiammóir's tribute to Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Oscar* ..... **Page 43**

The force lives: George Lucas's 1977 science fiction classic *Star Wars* returns to the big screen in a new edition topped up with even more special effects ..... **Page 44**

New on video: Nature goes on the rampage in the Hollywood special effects blockbuster *Twister*, while the 1950 John Huston crime classic *The Asphalt Jungle* is also released ..... **Page 45**

Disappointing evening: Hans Werner Henze's 1960s opera *Elegy for Young Lovers* fails to impress in Birmingham ..... **Page 45**

FEATURES

Week of chic: Iain R. Webb enjoys the moments of greatness during Paris Fashion Week as Alexander McQueen shocks at Givenchy and Valentino adds a tough edge to glamour ..... **Pages 20, 21**

Cancer hope: Dr Thomas Stuttaford on the Chinese tree of happiness that has revolutionised the life of an English cancer sufferer ..... **Page 22**

Bitter legacy: The head of museums and galleries in Glasgow is seeking a private Act of Parliament to revoke the terms of Sir William Burrell's will, threatening the chances of further bequests from art collectors ..... **Page 23**

BOOKS

Avenger's tale: Nicholas Wapshott on the memoirs of Lord McAlpine of West Green ..... **Pages 46, 47**

FOCUS

Vend spend: More than £1 billion is put into Britain's vending machines. A special report on this growing industry **37-41**

THE PAPERS

Faced with the United States, cultural resistance must go hand in hand with the economic offensive. In Latin America, so far from God and so close to Washington, as the proverb says, Jacques Chirac must have been heard when he denounced the hegemony of the English language. — *Le Figaro*



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ INTERVIEW
Valerie Grove meets Professor Roy Foster, the author of a new biography of W.B. Yeats

■ EDUCATION
David Blunkett on Labour's plans for the Department for Education

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Adam Dalgliesh investigates a publishing house death. *P. D. James's Original Sin* (ITV, 9pm). **Review:** Lynne Truss on scientists with metaphors ..... **Page 47**

OPINION

Open House

If both Parliament and party are to preserve their reputation then openness with Sir Gordon Downey's "sleaze" report is the only answer ..... **Page 24**

Cold peace in Helsinki

For both Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin, the stakes are higher than they have been for years. Both have been recently re-elected, and need to give firm personal direction to their new administrations **Page 24**

The first Europeans

A Berber ancestry would indeed be a novel concept for Maecenas, Horace's patron and campaign co-ordinator for Augustus, who was "descended from Etruscan kings" ..... **Page 24**

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

The Labour Party had to accept that socialism was not electable; they made Tony Blair their leader and decided, in the Clause 4 vote, to abandon the commitment to state ownership ..... **Page 25**

MURIEL SPARK

It is exactly 70 years ago that, at the age of nine, I set forth upon my literary life. My first work, a poem, was an intended improvement on Robert Browning's *The Pied Piper of Hamlin* ..... **Page 25**

PETER RIDDELL

The shambles over the "cash-for-questions" report is about much more than the future of a few Tory MPs. It is really over whether the House of Commons is any longer fit or capable of regulating its own affairs ..... **Page 13**

OBITUARIES

Erik de Mauny, broadcaster; **Kenneth Rowntree**, painter; **Max Sterne**, immunologist ..... **Page 27**

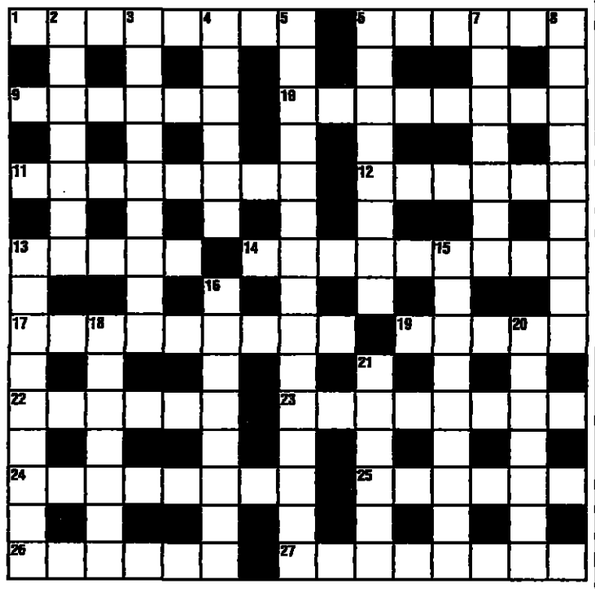
LETTERS

Labour repudiated on windfall tax; political influence of *The Sun*; Israeli "intransigence"; preservation of government records ..... **Page 25**

LOTTERY NUMBERS

13, 16, 17, 29, 40, 48. Bonus: 32.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,432



ACROSS

1 Squirrel shot by brother according to rumour (8).
6 Backward children make a mistake (4,2).
9 Laugh from heartless twit in a row (6).
10 English Lord arranged a party in fabulous location (2,6).
11 Toxic metal, as opposed to tin, abandoned by English (8).
12 Spirit of optimism of fellow pocketing gold (6).
13 Firm providing possible place on board for director (5).
14 Shined with rub, possibly (9).
17 European city offers author unending repose (9).
19 Name set in entrance may indicate philanthropist (5).
22 Drive into cactus region with scant vegetation (6).
23 Not going out. Eric is financially embarrassed (2,3,3).
24 Post 1 net improperly, thanks to him (8).
25 Male bore lacking vigour (6).
26 Member of sect with excess energy fraying at the edges (6).
27 Snare trapping second fish or small bird (8).

DOWN

2 The rain ruined head covering (7).
3 Caress a queen, in embrace of ludicrous old man (9).
4 Transfer from familiar surroundings to London Way, we hear (6).
5 Stay calm, but remain at risk of getting hot under the collar? (4,4,5,2).
6 Foreign money in parcel that's despatched for deposit (8).
7 Ruler's clear circular letter read out (7).
8 Quiet dog eats last food items (9).
13 What's the matter with wealth? (9).
15 Jackson's contribution to rural architecture (9).
16 It's a tree that's pulped to make paper (8).
18 Beast delving into tins for bits to eat (7).
20 Go too far with maiden, perhaps, then scarper (7).
21 A policeman's following street prints (6).

Times Two Crossword, page 56

Solution to Puzzle No 20,431

N	I	G	H	T	W	A	T	C	H	M	A	N		
I	E	U	V	U	O	O	Q							
T	R	E	E	N	A	I	L	S		P	E	R	D	U
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O	C	E	A	N		T	R	O	T		C	H	I	C
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L	U	C	I	F	E	R		S	A	L	E	R	N	O
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C	A	M	B	R	I	C		A	N	A	L	Y	S	T
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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Hove, East Sussex, 14C (57F); lowest day max: Sella Ness, Shetland, 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Capel Curig, Caernarfon & Menoneth, 0.55in; highest sunshine: Glasgow 9.4hr

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales should start mostly dry, but a few showers may linger in the East. Rain will spread from the North West across all parts by evening, although it will be light and patchy with some places staying dry. The North West will become brighter but there will still be scattered showers. The clearer weather should reach all but the South by evening.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will start cloudy with outbreaks of rain. In the far North there will be showers which will turn wintry. This clearer, showery weather will gradually spread to all parts.

☐ **London, SE England, Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales:** dry at first, becoming cloudy with rain later. Wind northwesterly, light to moderate. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **E Anglia, E England, NE England:** a few showers, dying out, with further rain for a time later. Wind northwesterly, moderate. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England, SW Scotland, N Ireland:** rain will spread from the North West, but it will become clearer with a few showers later. Wind northwesterly, becoming westerly, light to moderate. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll:** outbreaks of rain for a time, then mainly dry. Wind westerly, light to moderate. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** showers, turning increasingly wintry. Wind northwesterly, moderate to fresh. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Outlook for Friday and Saturday:** many places will be dry at first, but further rain will spread from the West.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

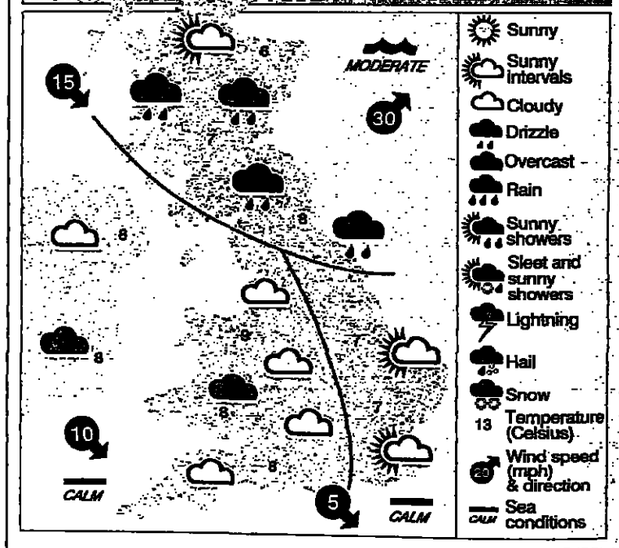
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	r					London	4.3	0.01	12	54	s
Anglesey	5.5	0.01	11	52	b	Lowestoft	2.9	0.04	9	48	b
Aspatria	5.0	0.03	11	52	s	Manchester	6.8	0.11	12	54	s
Aviemore	3.6	0.13	9	48	sh	Margate	2.3	0.01	10	50	sh
Belfast	6.8	0.04	10	50	b	Minehead	4.6	0.01	11	52	b
Birmingham	5.8	0.01	12	54	sh	Morecambe	6.5	0.02	11	52	s
Bognor R	5.8	-	13	55	s	Newcastle	5.5	0.05	11	52	sh
Bournem'th	5.3	0.01	13	55	b	Norwich	5.2	0.07	9	48	b
Bristol	2.8	0.01	12	54	b	Oxford	6.6	0.01	11	52	sh
Buxton	5.0	0.27	9	48	s	Penzance	X	-	13	55	s
Cardiff	6.3	0.01	11	52	s	Poole	5.6	-	13	55	s
Clacton	3.0	-	10	50	b	Prestatyn	¾	0.01	10	50	s
Cromer	1.9	0.05	7	45	c	Ross-o-wye	2.7	-	11	52	b
Eastbourne	5.0	-	13	55	s	Salcombe	4.7	-	13	55	s
Edinburgh	X					Sandown	6.9	0.01	12	54	b
Eskdalemuir	3.5	0.20	9	48	b	Saunton Snd	7.1	-	12	54	s
Exmouth	2.8	-	11	52	b	Scarboro'	6.2	0.02	8	46	s
Falmouth	8.8	-	10	50	s	Shanklin	5.7	-	12	54	b
Fishguard	6.7	-	9	48	s	Shrewsbury	2.5	0.01	10	50	c
Folkestone	6.1	0.02	13	55	sh	Skegness	6.6	0.07	9	48	sh
Glasgow	9.4	0.01	11	52	s	Southsea	4.3	-	13	55	s
Guernsey	7.6	-	13	55	s	Stornoway	6.7	0.06	9	48	sh
Hastings	5.0	0.01	13	55	s	Swanage	5.7	-	13	55	s
Hayling I.	5.2	0.01	13	55	sh	Teignmouth	4.0	-	11	52	b
Herne Bay	2.0	-	12	54	b	Tenby	5.7	-	11	52	s
Hove	4.3	-	14	57	s	Tiree	7.9	0.01	9	48	sh
Hunstanton	X	0.12	10	50	s	Torquay	5.2	-	12	54	s
Isle of Man	5.8	0.01	10	50	s	Ventnor	6.6	-	13	55	b
Jersey	7.1	0.01	12	54	s	West-s-mare	7.0	-	12	54	s
Kinloss	2.1	0.01	9	48	sh	Weymouth	8.1	-	13	55	s
Leeds	4.1	0.01	12	54	b						
Lerwick	0.8	0.07	6	41	sn						
Leuchars	6.8	0.01	13	55	b						
Littlehmptn	6.0	0.01	13	55	s						

ABROAD

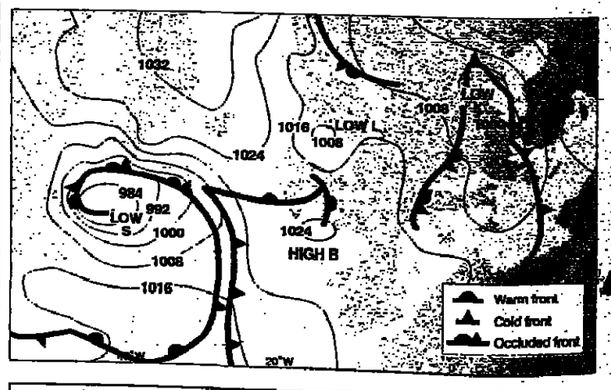
Ajaccio	17	63	s	Corfu	18	64	s	Majorca	19	66	s	S Fr'isco	17	63	f
Akrotiri	18	61	f	C'phagn	3	37	f	Malaga	20	68	s	S Paulo	23	73	c
Alex'dria	20	68	f	Dublin	11	52	c	Malta	18	64	s	Salzburg	9	48	s
Algiers	21	70	s	Dubrovnik	13	55	s	Melb'rne	25	77	s	Santiago	17	63	c
Amst'dm	9	48	c	Faro	19	66	s	Mexico C	23	73	s	Seoul	11	52	s
Athens	13	55	c	Florence	16	61	s	Miami	26	79	s	Sing'por	31	88	t
B Aires	25	77	c	Frankfurt	11	52	f	Milan	18	64	s	St'kholm	0	32	f
Bahrain	21	70	s	Funchal	19	66	f	Montreal	-5	23	s	Strasb'rg	15	59	s
Bangkok	32	90	f	Geneva	17	63	s	Moscow	-5	23	sn	Sydney	25	77	f
Barbados	29	84	f	Gibraltar	19	66	s	Munich	10	50	c	Tangier	23	73	s
Barcelona	20	68	s	Helsinki	-2	28	f	N Delhi	X			Tel Aviv	12	54	f
Beirut	17	63	s	Hong K	18	64	c	N York	8	46	f	Tenerife	24	75	s
Belgrade	5	41	f	Innsbruck	11	52	f	Nairobi	28	82	f	Tokyo	12	54	s
Berlin	4	39	f	Istanbul	3	37	sn	Naples	17	63	f	Toronto	-3	27	s
Bermuda	17	63	c	Jeddah	25	77	s	Nice	15	59	c	Tunis	22	72	s
Biarritz	12	54	c	Jo'burg	20	68	c	Oslo	0	32	s	Valencia	26	79	s
Borde'x	15	59	s	L Angels	16	61	s	Paris	10	50	c	Vanc'ver	8	46	r
Brussels	9	48	r	L Palmas	27	81	s	Peking	9	48	r	Venice	13	55	s
Budapst	4	39	s	Le Touqt	9	48	f	Prague	2	36	f	Vienna	2	36	f
Cairo	20	68	s	Lisbon	23	73	s	Reykjavik	1	34	c	Warsaw	0	32	c
Cape Tn	23	73	s	Locarno	18	64	s	Rhodes	14	57	f	Wash'ton	14	57	c
Ch'church	12	54	X	Luxembg	7	45	fg	Rio de J	27	81	f	Wel'ngton	16	61	x
Chicago	1	34	f	Luxor	24	75	s	Riyadh	25	77	s	Zurich	16	61	s
Cologne	11	52	c	Madrid	22	72	s	Rome	17	63	f				

Temperatures at midday local time on Tuesday. x = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: high B will move NE and intensify; low A will be slow-moving; lows L and K will move SE and fill; low S will move N and fill



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	11.44	6.4	-	-
Aberdeen	11.21	3.7	23.54	3.7
Avonmouth	04.39	10.9	17.12	11.3
Belfast	08.36	3.2	21.19	3.0
Cardiff	04.25	10.2	16.58	10.6
Devonport	03.14	4.6	15.48	4.7
Dover	08.57	5.6	21.14	5.5
Dublin (N Wall)	09.33	3.6	22.00	3.6
Falmouth	02.45	4.4	15.19	4.5
Greenock	10.12	2.8	23.06	2.8
Harwich	09.39	3.3	21.58	3.3
Holyhead	08.22	4.8	20.48	4.8
Hull (Albert D)	04.07	7.2	16.23	7.5
Ilfracombe	03.39	7.5	16.07	7.7
King's Lynn	04.17	5.3	16.26	5.6

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Leith	00.20	4.6	12.43	4.7
Liverpool	09.04	8.0	21.30	8.1
Lowestoft	07.48	2.2	19.37	2.2
Margate	10.03	4.1	22.14	4.1
Milford Haven	03.56	5.6	16.21	5.7
Newquay	02.52	5.7	15.16	5.8
Oban	03.59	3.2	16.13	3.3
Penzance	02.19	4.6	14.46	4.6
Portland	04.21	1.3	17.00	1.3
Portsmouth	09.12	3.9	21.40	4.1
Shoreham	09.02	5.0	21.30	5.4
Southampton	08.39	3.9	21.09	4.0
Swansea	03.48	7.9	16.17	8.1
Tees	01.18	4.4	13.35	4.5
Walton-on-N	09.35	3.5	21.54	3.5

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.04 am
Sun sets: 6.14 pm
Moon sets: 4.24 am
Moon rises: 2.39 pm

London 6.14 pm to 6.01 am
Bristol 6.23 pm to 6.11 am
Edinburgh 6.27 pm to 6.13 am
Manchester 6.22 pm to 6.09 am
Penzance 6.35 pm to 6.23 am

Full moon March 24

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

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Jumping through hoops: skating's new star turns
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Jobless rate declines to six-year low

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government yesterday claimed Britain's economic record is now "excellent" after new figures showed a further fall, of 68,200, in the number of people out of work and claiming benefit to its lowest level since October 1990.

UK unemployment fell to 1,746,300, seasonally adjusted, or 6.2 per cent of the workforce, last month. The jobless rate among men is 8.5 per cent, and among women 3.3 per cent. Unemployment fell in all regions.

While claimant count unemployment is now at its lowest level since October 1990, the unemployment rate to its lowest level since November of the same year. It marks the 12th consecutive fall in unemployment and takes the drop over the past year to 466,000.

John Major said: "Falling unemployment, stable prices, lower taxes, higher living standards — people's hard work has created a turbo-economy, which is making life better right across the country. Only if we stick on this course can we be sure to make life better still."

The fall was the third largest on record and takes the overall decline in unemployment since its peak in December 1992 to 1,234,800.

Though Whitehall statisticians are reluctant to put forward any estimate of the rate of change in unemployment because of the impact of benefit changes, government ministers claimed that the trend is now higher than it was before the changes in benefit.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) said that the figures were still being affected by the replacement of Unemployment Benefit by the Jobseekers' Allowance (JSA) as the principal benefit available to people out of work.

But they were unable to offer, as they normally do, any estimate of the trend in unemployment, insisting that the benefit changes made such estimates impossible, and suggested that they would be unlikely to do so before about mid-summer.

While they insisted they had not been asked by ministers to produce a new trend figure, they agreed that the rate of fall was now higher than it had been last year before the introduction of JSA.

Privately, ministers are adamant that the monthly rate of fall is now between 25,000 and 30,000, instead of the ONS's last estimate of 15,000 to 20,000. Despite the ONS's statistical reservations, ministers estimated about half the recent falls in unemployment could be attributed to JSA, with the rest due to people going into jobs.

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, welcomed the fall, and insisted the JSA was doing the job intended for it, "flushing out" people who were "cheating the system" by "moonlighting" in jobs at the same time as drawing unemployment benefit.

Labour attacked his remarks, with David Blunkett, the Shadow Employment and Education Secretary, maintaining that the impact of JSA made the monthly claimant count figures more unreliable than ever, and promising to clean up unemployment statistics should Labour be voted into power at the election.

Further figures showed record numbers of job vacancies. Official vacancy figures, reckoned to be about a third of the job vacancies available across the whole economy, were at 270,900 in February, at their highest level since official figures began.

The number of new vacancies notified to Jobcentres in the month rose 40,600 to 244,700, the highest level of notifications since records were first kept.

The stock of vacancies held at Jobcentres increased by 7,800 to almost a quarter of a million.

Strength of sales may spell rate rise

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

HIGH STREET sales were stronger than expected in February, reviving speculation that an incoming Chancellor will be forced to raise rates by as much as half a percentage point in May.

Retail sales rose 0.5 per cent in February, according to the Office for National Statistics, against market expectations of a rise of around 0.1 per cent.

Minutes of the February monetary meeting, also published yesterday, show the Bank of England still wants a 0.25 per cent rate rise. But the Bank's stance had softened from previous meetings, at which Eddie George, the Governor, had called for a rise of as much as 0.5 per cent, and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, had resisted.

Retail sales growth was driven by a big increase in spending on household goods, with sales rising 2.1 per cent, and by a 1.4 per cent rise in sales of clothing and footwear. But food volumes, up strongly in recent months, were flat.

Economists said the retail sales figures and the rise in average earnings data yesterday, pointed to the need for an immediate post-election rise in rates to restrain spending growth.

But the incoming Chancellor can take heart from figures for the value of sales in February, which suggest High Street inflation is running at around 1 per cent, with retail competition yet fierce.

The new figures are unlikely to have altered the Bank's view that a 0.25 per cent rise will be needed immediately. Mr George said in February's meeting that he believed current monetary and consumer spending growth is unsustainable. The risk, he said, is that the 2.5 per cent inflation target in two year's time will be missed.

However, he also said he did not believe that the economy was in danger of accelerating out-of-control. The Chancellor insisted that the economy was on target to meet the inflation target, while emphasising the importance of the sustained rise in sterling and the weaker GDP figures.

Pennington, page 31
Market report, page 32

PETER TRIEVNOR



Ramon Pajares, managing director of Savoy Hotel, anticipates an improvement in occupancy and room rates. Story, page 30

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4332.2	(-24.6)
Yield	3.72%	
FTSE All share	2115.4	(-10.16)
Nikkei	18493.71	(+48.51)
New York:		
Dow Jones	6830.09	(-66.47)*
S&P Composite	780.31	(-9.35)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¼%*	(5¼%)
Long Bond	95⁹⁄₃₂*	(95⁷)
Yield	6.98%*	(6.96%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	6⅝%	(6⅝%)
Life long gilt future (Jun)	109¹⁄₁₆	(110¹⁄₃₂)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5980*	(1.5907)
London:		
$	1.5973	(1.5890)
DM	2.6858	(2.6667)
FFr	9.0581	(8.9997)
SFr	2.3082	(2.2992)
Yen	196.06	(194.82)
£ Index	96.3	(95.7)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.6832*	(1.6738)
FFr	5.6780*	(5.6485)
SFr	1.4465*	(1.4390)
Yen	122.80*	(122.45)
$ Index	104.1	(104.0)

Tokyo close Yen 123.03

BRENT CRUDE

Brent 15-day (Jun) $20.30 ($20.10)

GOLD

London close $348.95 ($346.85)

* denotes midday trading price

C&W bid talk prompts Sprint spree

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

SUGGESTIONS that Cable and Wireless is planning a $15 billion US takeover deal prompted speculative buying yesterday in the shares of Sprint, America's third-largest telephone company.

With buyers so heavily outnumbering sellers, trading in Sprint shares was delayed for an hour when the New York Stock Exchange opened. A report claimed that Cable and Wireless was planning to buy the 80 per cent of Sprint not owned by France Telecom and Deutsche Telecom, which each have a 10 per cent stake. C&W was reported to have secured the support of France Telecom for the bid.

In London, there was scepticism about a possible bid. One broker said: "C&W just couldn't handle a takeover right now. It doesn't have a strong enough balance sheet to afford the massive price and with all its restructuring, its management has too much on its plate."

With a market value of nearly $19 billion, Sprint is larger than C&W. A C&W spokesman said that the company would not comment on market speculation.

Many observers believe that a complex deal could emerge from further discussions. C&W may want to counter the $22 billion merger between BT and MCI, while Sprint is looking for greater international business.

☐ The French Government will begin the privatisation of France Telecom on May 6, with the sale of shares worth between Fr30 billion and FFr50 billion, Michel Bon, the chairman, said yesterday.

B&B benefit

Bradford & Bingley, the building society, has promised to double its members' benefits scheme to £100 million this year in its battle against converting societies.
Page 30

Looking east

Kingfisher, the retail conglomerate that owns Woolworths, Comet and Superdrug, plans to open two branches of its B&Q do-it-yourself chain in Taiwan.
Page 31, Tempus 32

Earnings growth increases to 5%

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

GROWTH in average earnings has accelerated, suggesting that a more buoyant labour market is triggering higher pay settlements.

Average earnings increased by 5 per cent in the year to the January 31, an increase of 0.25 per cent on the December figure, which itself has been revised up by a quarter of a percentage point.

New figures from the Office for National Statistics showed a three-quarter point rise in underlying earnings growth across the whole economy since last month's figures were published.

The figures were much higher than expected and raised fears about inflationary pressures building up in the labour market. The earnings growth figure is now a full point higher than it was three months ago, when it stood at 4 per cent.

Ministers, eager yesterday to proclaim the economic success of a further fall in unemployment, insisted that this was not a principal cause for concern, given rising productivity.

Manufacturing output per head was 1.4 per cent higher in the three months to January compared with a year earlier, and is now running at its highest level since August 1995.

As a result, unit wage costs are still easing, with manufacturing wages and salaries per unit of output now 3.1 per cent higher in the three months to January compared with a year ago — the lowest figure since August 1995.

Analysts suggested that the rapidly tumbling level of unemployment in the last three months, spurred by the introduction of the Jobseekers' Allowance, had now got to such a pace that it was allowing earnings growth to accelerate.

SFO 'held papers in Forsyth case'

BY JON ASHWORTH

THE Serious Fraud Office (SFO) has become embroiled in a fresh dispute over Elizabeth Forsyth, whose conviction was quashed by the Court of Appeal this week.

Lawyers for Mrs Forsyth, a former aide to Polly Peck's Asil Nadir, claim that vital documents were kept from the defence throughout her trial and did not come to light until the appeal hearing in January. The SFO says the documents were available for inspection throughout.

Any suggestion that documents were suppressed would be highly damaging to the SFO, which is privately exasperated at the outcome of the appeal. Mrs Forsyth served ten months of a five-year sentence for handling £400,000 in stolen funds, but her conviction was ruled to be unsafe. She is seeking compensation for wrongful imprisonment.

The latest row relates to witness statements made in 1991 by Dennis Robertson, the Stoy Hayward partner who was Polly Peck's auditor. Mr Robertson died before the Forsyth case came to court, but his testimony casts light on a key part of the defence — the so-called "secondary banking" operation in northern Cyprus.

Peter Krivinskas, the lawyer who acts for both Mrs Forsyth and Mr Nadir, says he did not know the documents existed until the appeal opened in January. He said: "The ramifications are extreme. If the evidence had been read out in court, it may well have resulted in a not guilty verdict."

The SFO would not comment yesterday. The SFO faces a dilemma over Mr Nadir, who is expected to apply for the case against him to be dropped on grounds of abuse of process.

Rexam's revamp costs 1,200 jobs

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT



Borjesson: sell-offs

REXAM, the packaging group formerly known as Bowater, yesterday announced the loss of 1,200 jobs, including 500 in Britain, across its European and North American operations.

The restructuring of continuing operations, together with the sale of a large number of non-core businesses, gave rise to a £360 million charge, leaving Rexam with pre-tax losses £190 million in 1996. In 1995 Rexam earned pre-tax profits of £180 million.

The company has written off £254 million in goodwill and £104 million has been lost through disposals. Rexam's underlying profits, stripped of exceptional costs, fell to £170 million, from £185 million.

Jeremy Lancaster, chairman, said flat sales of £2.28 billion were largely responsible for the decline in underlying profits, although margins had shown some improvement. Packaging suffered last year from customer demands for cheaper products after the price of raw materials had leapt in 1995. Profits fell in food and drink packaging, industrial products and healthcare packaging, although other divisions saw some improvement.

Michael Hartnall, finance director, said that restructuring of the group would deliver annual cost savings of £20 million. The series of disposals, which began in January, would be completed by next year, he said.

The sell-off and restructuring followed the appointment last July of Rolf Borjesson as chief executive. So far, three businesses have been sold, with a further sale half completed, and four or five sales are at advanced stages of negotiation.

An 8p final dividend makes an unchanged total of 14.1p.

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Vickers joins outcry against sterling strength

By Christine Buckley
Industrial Correspondent

VICKERS, the tanks to healthcare group, yesterday joined the chorus of companies giving warning of the impact of the strong pound, with Sir Colin Chandler, chief executive, saying that fluctuations strengthened the case for European monetary union.

Sir Colin said the strength of sterling could knock £6 million to £7 million from profits this year. He said monetary union should come only after the convergence criteria are properly met. Because of uncertainty over the level of sterling, Vickers said it is "unusually difficult to foresee the trends of sales and profits in 1997".

Last year Vickers lifted pre-tax profits 11 per cent to £83.3 million on sales that had risen 6 per cent to £1.19 billion.

In its defence division, which included a full year's contribution from Vickers Bridging, Vickers lifted profits by £2.1 million to £18 million. The company is bidding for a big overseas order from Turkey and is in partnerships for European and other international defence work.

The company denied that it is in talks with GKN over forging a formal alliance. Although Sir Colin said consolidation is needed in defence engineering, he insisted that Vickers "wanted to enter the consolidation arena from a position of strength".

Profits from the sale of Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars suffered a 10 per cent fall to £37.6 million in the year to December 31 in spite of a 12 per cent rise in sales. The division suffered from weakened margins because of changes in model mix.

The final dividend, payable on May 2, was set at 4.5p. That makes a total for the year of 7.2p, which is a 7 per cent increase on the previous year.

Pennington, page 31

B&B plans doubling of benefits to £100m

By Gavin Lumsden

BRADFORD & Bingley, the building society, yesterday raised the stakes in its battle against converting societies with a promise to double its members' benefits scheme to £100 million this year.

The society returned £43 million to members in the form of improved savings and mortgage rates from March to December 1996. This caused after-tax profits to fall £51.1 million, to £56.6 million, and operating profits to decline from £159.2 million to £92.5 million. This also reflected the £15 million cost of making 300 staff redundant and a £20 million hit arising from the decision to account discounted mortgages in the year in which they are made.

However, new mortgage lending leapt 55 per cent to £2.8 billion, giving it a 5 per cent market share. The society's small independent financial planning business increased income by 80 per cent to £30 million.

Assets rose nearly 9 per cent, to £17 billion, and reserves increased £57 million to £901 million. Christopher Rodrigues, the chief executive appointed last June, said: "Real mutuals don't need to maximise profits. For us a post-tax profit equivalent to 5 per cent of reserves is appropriate."

He went on: "When the conversion smokescreen clears and the one-off handouts have been paid what will really matter is the returns to members. We are doubling the dividends to our members from £1 million to £2 million a week to deliver rewards today and rewards tomorrow."

As the first part of the package the society claimed that rises of up to 1 per cent on its savings accounts beat rivals such as Abbey National, Alliance & Leicester, Halifax, Northern Rock and Woolwich.

However, Northern Rock criticised the society for not including its uncompetitive postal accounts. Adam Applegarth, executive director, said: "The whole argument is ballyhoo. It is nonsense to make claims using selective rates. Even after the latest rate increase there is still clear blue water between them and ourselves."

Bradford & Bingley will reveal new mortgage rates next month.

☐ Further details of the long-awaited Norwich Union flotation will be revealed today (Anne Ashworth writes).

The three million with-profit pension policyholders are each expected to receive shares worth an average of £500. Various other categories of policyholder will also be included, such as the non-profit customers, but those that have only Norwich Union health, home and motor cover will be excluded.

Those who receive free shares will have the opportunity to apply for more, as the company is raising £2 billion in new capital.

A&L sets date for flotation

By Robert Miller

ALLIANCE & Leicester yesterday confirmed that its stock market debut as a £3.5 billion bank will take place on April 21.

The building society, which also owns Girobank, will issue a flat 250 free shares to 2.4 million qualifying savers and borrowers. Customers who want to sell immediately will be able to do so through a free share dealing service.

Many, however, may prefer to wait in the expectation that the share price will be driven higher as they join the elite in the FT-SE 100 index. Pension funds and unit trusts will need to build their holdings, as will the managers who track the index. A&L will be ranked about 80th in the index.

The converting societies, with the exception of the Halifax, which has waived its rights, will be ring-fenced from hostile bids for up to five years under the new Building Societies Act, which is expected to receive Royal Assent on Friday. Protection will be lost if the new banks make a successful bid for another recognised financial institution.

MIKE WILKINSON



Richard Boland, left, chief executive, and James Miller, chairman, whose WEW Group is to give most of its 80 discount stores a new look over five years. WEW made £1.63 million pre-tax profit in the half year to February 1 (£3 million loss). There is again no interim dividend

Earnings at BNB hit by defections

By Jon Ashworth

DEFECTING headhunters have left their mark on BNB Resources, the recruitment and training group that owns Norman Broadbent International (NBI), the executive search firm.

Pre-tax profits rose 11 per cent, to £6.4 million (£5.7 million), in the year to end-December, but underlying earnings growth has slowed.

Staff departures in London and New York resulted in a 33 per cent drop in NBI's operating income. Turnover in recruitment services rose to £84.5 million (£75.2 million), boosted by a full-year contribution from Goodman Graham, an IT recruitment specialist. However, operating income was trimmed to £41.4 million (£39.1 million) and operating profits were little changed at £7.76 million.

The lacklustre performance reflects the mass departures of a year ago, when Miles Broadbent, NBI's co-founder, left to set up his own practice, and there were further defections in international offices. Under a lock-in clause, Mr Broadbent and the others were obliged to pay 50 per cent of their earnings to NBI during the first 12 months. The last such covenant expires at the end of the month, and the full impact of the loss of these fee-earners is yet to be felt.

Group turnover increased to £115.2 million (£102.4 million). A final dividend of 5.2p (4.4p) a share makes a total of 7.6p (6.4p) a share for the year.

☐ Penna Holdings, the human resources company, has bought Selby MillSmith, a pyschometrics specialist, for an initial £300,000.

Savoy looks forward to fruits of revamp

By Alasdair Murray

SAVOY HOTEL hopes to improve overall occupancy and room rates when its restoration programme is completed this summer.

The company said that it would also benefit from the improvements made in service standards and management control. But there was no news about the future of Granada's 68 per cent stake in the company, which is expected to be put up for sale soon.

Savoy yesterday announced a 35 per cent increase in full-year profits, excluding tax and exceptional items, to £15.2 million. The shares fell 5p to £14.32½p. Overall turnover rose 3 per cent to £91 million. The dividend is 25 per cent higher, at 17.5p for A shares and 8.7p for B shares, payable on May 26.

Exceptional costs of £39.9 million related mainly to a writedown on asset values. The operating profit margin rose from 13.2 to 17.1 per cent.

The restoration saw Savoy lose 22 per cent of its rooms during the year, with the potential lost revenue estimated at £8 million. Occupancy rose from 73 per cent to 84 per cent of available rooms.

The increase in room rates had been kept at 4 per cent, but Savoy is confident of being able to make an increase in line with the market this year.

Watchdog closes Philip Alexander

By Robert Miller

A CITY watchdog yesterday closed down Phillip Alexander Securities and Futures after the High Court ruled it "was satisfied that the firm is, or is likely to become, unable to pay its debts".

The Securities and Futures Authority said Phillip Alexander Securities and Futures had agreed to cease carrying out investment business, and to transfer control of remaining client funds to the administrators.

In 1991 the firm was fined £20,000 by the SFA for rule breaches including the issue of an advertisement that carried a misleading claim. Last April the watchdog issued a statement identifying areas of concern from the previous year relating to the manner in which Phillip Alexander Securities and Futures carried out business introduced to the firm by overseas brokers. These included poor performance of client accounts, excessive commission and charges and "the large number and similarity of complaints".

The firm has four executives registered with the SFA. They are Brian Cowley, senior executive officer; Paul Atkins, director and registered trader; Paul Marsden, registered manager and finance officer; and William Pepper, non-executive director.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Weir ready to spend £80m on acquisition

WEIR GROUP, the engineering company, is prepared to spend up to £80 million on an acquisition this year to add a new leg to its pumps and valves business. Disappointed at not making an acquisition last year, Viscount Weir, chief executive, said the group would be willing to expand outside its core businesses. Lord Weir refused to say whether the company will bid for Howden, the industrial fanmaker, or whether it is interested in any of Howden's subsidiaries.

Weir was reporting record pre-tax profits of £49 million (£45.5 million) for the year to December 27 and earnings of 17.4p a share, up from 16.6p. The dividend rises to 8p (7.5p), with a final 5.69p due June 12. It said the order book is already 15 per cent stronger, with £120 million expected from orders from the commission of the Trafalgar Class submarines and other nuclear handling work at Devonport dockyard.

Tesco's Irish move

TESCO is today expected to announce a major expansion in Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic with the purchase of the retailing interests of Associated British Foods for up to £700 million. The agreement includes the Stewarts/Crazy Prices chains in Northern Ireland and the Quinnsworth chain in the Republic. Stewarts/Crazy Prices has the largest market share in Northern Ireland with sales in the year to September 1995 of around £394 million and pre-tax profits of just over £11 million.

Record for Marley

DISPOSALS helped Marley, the building materials group, to return record results for last year after a £38.7 gain from selling its car parts division took pre-tax profits to £85 million (£46.3 million). The company said that sluggish markets had left underlying profits at £43.3 million (£41.9 million). Its US businesses generating £18.8 million. Overall, adjusted earnings were 9.4p (8.8p) per share. The final dividend rises to 5p (4.7p), with a final 2.9p due May 30.

Closures hit Halshaw

EVANS HALSHAW, the automotive distributor, incurred a pre-tax loss of £9.32 million in 1996 after a £19.8 million charge against the closure of 11 loss-making dealerships. Profits were £13.6 million in 1995. It plans to close a further four delearships, and find a buyer for another four. Although losses were 32.9p a share, against earnings of 28.8p last time, the dividend is maintained at 16.5p. A final 11p is due on May 12. The shares eased by 1p to 247½p.

Matthews diversifies

THE oven-ready turkeys that made Bernard Matthews famous now account for less than 7 per cent of the business, the food group said yesterday. Efforts to broaden the base of the business into the frozen, fresh, cooked meat and catering sectors paid off with pre-tax profits of £22.6 million (£18.7 million) in the year to December 29. Earnings per share were 12.69p (10.45p) and the final dividend of 2.4p (2p), payable on May 2, makes a total for the year of 4.1p (3.39p).

Devro up to £44m

DEVRO, the sausage skin maker, successfully absorbed costs of BSE and buying its bigger US rival, Teepak, to lift 1996 pre-tax profits 43 per cent to £44.4 million after exceptional charges, from £31.1 million in 1995. Exceptional charges were a £4.5 million BSE-related stock write-off and £10.5 million to integrate Teepak. Selling Devro America brought a £7.5 million exceptional gain. Earnings per share after exceptionals were 18.5p (17.4p). A final dividend of 5.7p (5.1p) makes 8.5p (7.7p).

Loftus Road in red

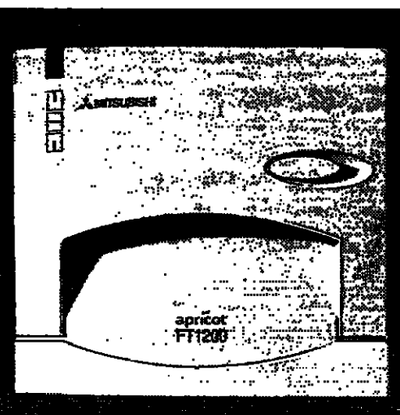
LOFTUS ROAD, the holding company for Queens Park Rangers Football Club and Wasps Rugby Club, made a £4.4 million half-year loss in its first set of interim results since it came to the Alternative Investment Market last year. The shares stayed at 63½p yesterday, against a year high of 106½p. The results included a loss of £2.9 million on transfer deals. The company has invested £900,000 in players since the half-year end. There is no dividend.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.12	1.96
Austria Sch	19.74	18.24
Belgium Fr	57.95	53.65
Canada $	2.292	2.132
Cyprus Cypf	0.833	0.778
Denmark Kr	10.75	9.95
Finland Mkk	8.54	7.89
France Fr	9.40	8.75
Germany Dm	2.82	2.61
Greece Dr	438	413
Hong Kong $	12.96	11.96
Iceland	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.07	0.99
Israel Shk	5.64	4.99
Italy Lira	2635	2635
Japan Yen	209.70	193.70

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Malta	0.646	0.591
Netherlds Gld	3.151	2.921
New Zealand $	2.45	2.29
Norway Kr	11.37	10.57
Portugal Esc	278.50	260.00
S Africa Rd	7.63	6.83
Spain Pta	237.50	220.50
Sweden Kr	13.03	12.03
Switzerland Fr	2.42	2.24
Turkey Lira	208000	194000
USA $	1.689	1.559

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



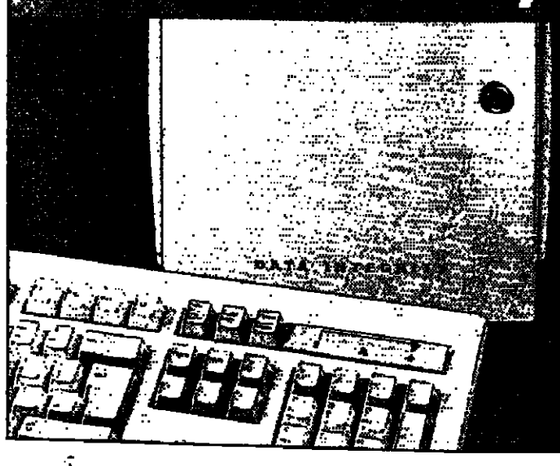
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Which, when you think about it, doesn't make them very "equivalent".

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MITSUBISHI apricot

☐ Calling the shots on the Co-op ☐ City cools to Vickers ☐ Positive picture from the retail sales figures

Attila rides to the rescue

☐ THE Salvation Army has hired Attila the Hun. The men at the top of the Co-operative movement must feel they need all the help they can get against Lanica Trust, if they are prepared to employ one of the City's toughest corporate financiers.

Brian Keelan of SBC Warburg has made his name on the aggressive side of City takeover bids, but he is therefore a good defender by definition and should be able to extract the best price for the Co-op. Except for one huge reservation, which is that there is no bid on the table for the Co-op or bits of it from Lanica, Andrew Regan's investment vehicle, or its 90 per cent-owned associate Galileo, and the Co-op has made it clear any offer will not be considered.

Received wisdom, therefore, has Mr Regan as a Don Quixote tilting at windmills that are firmly anchored to the ground. One day he will have to admit, in public, that the deal cannot be done. Lanica's shares, which motored to close to £20 before their suspension on froth and speculation, will start to trade again, and collapse. SBC will pocket one of the least earned defence fees in history.

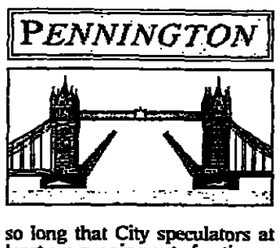
Except for another huge reservation, which is that you don't hire a defender if you are not under attack. Let us therefore assume an attack is possible, and consider how. Mr Regan starts with a decent advantage, access to big City hitters for capital. He is reckoned to have £1.5 billion to hand, potentially.

His disadvantage is an air of someone who went into a deep freeze around 1988 and has just been defrosted for the purpose, the mutant son of Gordon Gekko. This may be unfair but it is the image, which is why sectors of the Labour Party are not keen to hand the Co-op movement over to him.

His other disadvantage is the weird nature of the Co-op. The parallel has been drawn with a mutual, following the Scottish Amicable's discovery of how nasty it can be in the real world, but this is incorrect. It is more like an old-fashioned trade union. The members own the Co-op, and derive scant satisfaction from this, but they do not have direct control. This, broadly, is delegated upwards through committees of mandated Co-op members to the board at the top, and executives appointed by those mandated members.

This hermetically sealed structure stops any direct appeal to members. All Lanica/Galileo can do is try to rouse them to put pressure on their delegates. These in turn put pressure on the board and executives, who are currently proving obdurate. Think of it as a management buy-in by Mr Regan, who would want ownership of some or all of the assets. In return he would offer members a better return on their membership.

Put this way, it still looks extremely difficult but not impossible. The heavy odds must still be on Lanica shares crashing on re-listing and a contrite admission of failure, but those odds are very hard to call.



Tanks for all your patience

☐ VICKERS is one of those dull companies to which something interesting must eventually happen. Unfair, certainly, to one of our most distinguished exporters, but something has been about to happen to the walnut dashboards of its Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars or the armoured shells of its tanks for so long that City speculators at least are running out of patience.

Hard to believe it is a difficult business making and selling Rollers, but while sales are tooling along nicely as the "feel-good" factor filters through, margins are under pressure, and hence a 10 per cent fall in operating profits from cars.

Having survived the nightmare days of 1991 and 1992, Vickers is determined to see its luxury car division properly restored to glory, gleaming upholstery and a convincing financial performance. Those analysts downgrading profits yesterday are less easily not convinced that such determined loyalty to fancy motors is worthwhile.

Vickers is equally firm about its defence operation. Further consolidation in defence engineering is going to come, even if the need is not as pressing as in aerospace. Sir Colin Chandler, the chief executive of Vickers, must accept this, but would like it to happen on his terms and is playing down rumoured links with GKN, another of Britain's four armoured vehicle makers. Tanks outshoot armoured cars every time: Vickers makes the former; GKN the latter — and Sir Colin would sooner call the shots than field them.

A large tank order from Turkey may help him, but it would not be the huge boost some observers hope for. Fortunes in defence will rather depend on a couple of awards from the army, for reconnaissance equipment and a combat engineer tractor. Whichever of the bidding consortia wins is likely to hold the keys to the shape of European defence engineering.

Analysts are generally gloomy about prospects for defence, fearing the effects of a future orders gap even if one looms somewhat nearer for GKN. Vickers shares now sell on less than 14 times' this year's earnings, but in the absence of positive developments market sentiment is likely to remain sour.

High street tills ring in the election

☐ THE Governor of the Bank of England's monthly calls for higher interest rates have an increasingly ritualistic look about them. A quarter of a per cent is really neither here nor there, but Eddie George must keep on hammering away even if we all know a base rate rise weeks from the election is about as likely as a 100-seat Conservative majority thereafter.

He has pulled back from suggesting a half-point increase, which suggests even he accepts the ritual being played out. But set aside for a moment the earnings figures, which could be inflated by all those awful City bonuses, and there is enough ammunition in the February retail sales to suggest the Chancellor has right as well as political expediency in his side.

The catch is the mismatch between the rise in the volume of sales in February, adjusted for inflation and ahead of City expectations, and the rise in the value of sales, unadjusted. The difference between these is the measure of inflation on the high street, and this is now running at just 1 per cent year on year.

Sales growth indicates a healthy economy, but inflation appears under control. This may be reading too much from a monthly take on figures that are notoriously erratic, but it does coincide with what we can all see happening in the real world. Consumers are spending, but wisely: we are all used to cheap prices and we are not going to accept sudden increases. Good news for whoever is Chancellor by the summer, even if political machismo may require a token rise in base rates then.

Zaire warning

☐ STANDARD & Poor's, the risk consultant, has drawn up a list of the world's ten most dangerous currencies for speculators. The old Soviet Union does predictably badly, but the two worst? On level pegging, Albania and Zaire. Bet you feel safer for knowing that. Somehow the old advice to beware, the value of your investment can fall as well as rise, hardly seems to be enough here, does it?

Kingfisher to expand in Asia as profits jump

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

KINGFISHER, the retailing conglomerate, is joining the expansion of Britain's retailers abroad with plans to open two new branches of B&Q, the DIY market leader, in Taiwan.

Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive, said that the openings would build up Kingfisher's understanding of the Asian market and could lead to openings there of its other formats — which include Woolworths, Comet and Superdrug — in the future. The decision to push on with openings follows a successful trial in Taiwan of the first foreign branch of B&Q.

Sir Geoffrey was speaking as he unveiled better-than-expected full-year results for the group. Pre-tax profit in the 52 weeks to February 1 was 24.7 per cent higher at £388.7 million on turnover up 10.1 per cent to a record £5.82 billion.

Many analysts raised their forecasts for this year by between £5 million and £15 million to around £440 million.

Sir Geoffrey declined to comment on repeated rumours linking Kingfisher with both Wickes, the troubled DIY chain, and Littlewoods, which is planning to sell its chain of 135 stores. He said the emphasis was on organic growth and in-fill acquisitions, but he did not rule out larger purchases.

Strongest growth came from B&Q, Comet and Woolworths. According to Sir Geoffrey: "It flows from our concentration on markets we know and understand, centred on the home and family, new ideas in-store, which our customers like, and improved operational efficiency."

B&Q's sales grew 14.1 per cent, with like-for-like growth of 9.9 per cent. Profit grew by 75.5 per cent to £97.2 million.

A recovery at Comet led to like-for-like sales growth of 13.2 per cent, before additional profits from Norweb Retail, acquired in November for a net £25 million, is added.

Darty, the French electricals market leader, was steady in a difficult market and its like-for-like sales crept up 2.2 per cent. The company acquired a 26 per cent stake in But, a French furniture and electricals retailer, during the year but has not yet decided whether to increase that holding, Sir Geoffrey said.

Woolworths produced record profits, up 28.8 per cent to £84.1 million on like-for-like sales growth of 8.2 per cent. The company is introducing three separate types of Woolworth, depending on location, and is investing in upgrading the look and range of goods available. The three new types are city, heartland and local. So far 117 stores have been converted to the local look.

Earnings per share were 41.7p (31.5p). The final dividend of 14p (11.7p), payable on July 4, gives a full-year dividend of 19p (16.2p).

Tempus, page 32

UniChem spent £16m in bid fight

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

UNICHEM, the pharmaceutical wholesaling and retailing group, spent £16.1 million on its year-long and ultimately fruitless pursuit of Lloyds Chemists, it disclosed yesterday.

The takeover campaign ended on January 17 when UniChem conceded to Germany's Gehe, the rival bidder. Unichem paid £14.2 million in fees, costs and underwriting commission. Financing its 9.9 per cent stake in Lloyds cost UniChem a further £1.9 million, but the company made a net profit on selling the stake of £2.9 million. The bid's net cost was therefore £13.2 million.

After exceptionals, UniChem made pre-tax profit in the year to December 31 of £40.3 million, against £49.4 million a year earlier.

Jeff Harris, chief executive, said that UniChem now intends to double the number of Moss Chemists outlets, from the current 450. It plans to open 100 this year, up from 41 last year. Buying Lloyds would have meant the group controlling 1,300 pharmacies. UniChem is also seeking a big European wholesaling acquisition.



Harris: wants more shops

Earnings per share excluding exceptional costs were 20.2p (19p). A final dividend of 5.8p (5.3p), payable on July 1, makes 8.8p (8p).

Tempus, page 32



ANTHONY UPTON

Andrew Calvert, finance director, left, and Dennis Webb, chief executive, saw Beazer sell more houses at higher prices

Rising house sales boost Beazer

HOUSE sales at Beazer Group were up by a fifth, with volume growth and higher selling prices helping the company to raise pre-tax profits 29 per cent to £23.8 million, and Beazer expects the growth to continue in the current year (Carl Mortished writes).

Reservations are up 35 per cent from the same period last year. However, Dennis Webb, chief executive, expects only 20 per cent of the growth to convert into completions. He said: "The improvement to the market has stretched the thin labour resource pool and we are beginning to experience delays to build programmes in some regions."

Beazer sold 3,126 houses in the half year to December 31, compared with 2,570 in the same period in 1995, and average selling prices were up 18 per cent to £73,000. However, higher prices did not come from inflation. Mr Webb said the growth stems from Beazer's policy of selling bigger houses. "We are spending more on land, and the land is supporting higher-priced income," he explained.

The company is raising the interim dividend by 5 per cent to 2.1p from earnings of 5.83p, up 27 per cent on last year.

Williams Holdings unveils 49% increase

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

WILLIAMS HOLDINGS, which is in the midst of a £1.3 billion bid for Chubb, yesterday expressed confidence about its main markets this year as it unveiled a 49 per cent rise in full-year profits to £340 million.

Shares in the security and home improvement products company climbed 5p to close at 334½p.

Williams shares have recovered strongly since initial fears that it is overpaying with its cash and paper agreed bid for Chubb prompted the shares to fall to 300p. The first closing date for acceptances is Friday.

Headline profits were boosted by a £97 million one-off gain from the sale of its building products division. Operating profits, which were flagged at the time of the bid last month, increased 15 per cent to £269 million. The total dividend rises 5.6 per cent to 15.05p. A final dividend of 9.25p is payable on May 29.

Ionica calls up £215m to develop network

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

IONICA, the telephone operator in which Northern Electric and Yorkshire Electricity have large stakes, has secured £215 million to fund expansion in the UK.

The company, which is moving towards a stock market flotation within a year, raised the money in the debt markets by issuing senior discount notes, in a debt facility arranged with Bankers Trust, and through a private equity placement completed last month. This means that Ionica has now raised a total of £400 million.

The new capital will support the start of Ionica's services in the Midlands and the further roll-out of its operations throughout the country.

Ionica last year began connecting customers in eastern England and has attracted 14,000 customers. It intends to expand its network to cover 80 per cent of all phone lines in the UK, excluding Scotland, by 2002.

Advertising spend fuels profits leap

A bigger slice of the fast-growing newspaper advertising spend in the Republic of Ireland helped to fuel a 47 per cent increase in annual pre-tax profits at Independent Newspapers to Ir£73.5 million. Earnings rose 14 per cent to Ir16.5p a share. Turnover increased 14 per cent to Ir£419 million.

In the Republic of Ireland, where Independent controls almost 75 per cent of the domestic newspaper market, operating profits rose 33 per cent to Ir£34 million, with both advertising and circulation income benefiting from the strong growth of the economy. In contrast, New Zealand and Australia were sluggish.

In Britain, losses associated with Independent's 46 per cent stake in Newspaper Publishing increased to Ir£5 million. Liam Healy, the chief executive, said the joint venture arrangement with Mirror Newspapers was working well, and he rejected speculation that changes were afoot.

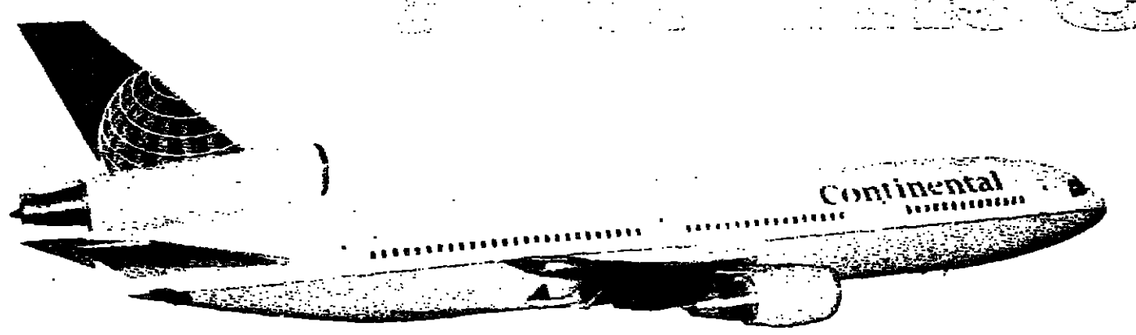
A final dividend of Ir4.6p a share lifts the total 18 per cent to Ir6.9p.

TT purchase

TT Group, the acquisitive conglomerate, is buying GEC's wire and cables business for £16 million. TT is also taking on certain liabilities. The Wire and Cables Group made a profit of £2 million on sales of £197 million in the year to March 1996. On completion, the business had capital employed of £58 million and borrowings of £24 million.

Visa record

Visa, the plastic debit and credit card provider backed by the UK banks, will today unveil a record 1996, with domestic expenditure rising by 25 per cent to £76.1 billion. The number of cardholders rose by 15 per cent to top 40 million.



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STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

Fear of post-election rate rise unsettles investors

SHARE prices and government bonds were beating a ragged retreat last night amid fears of an interest rate rise immediately after the general election.

Evidence of a build-up in inflationary pressures was contained in the latest average earnings numbers which rose to the highest level since November 1992. The figure in January grew to 5 per cent compared with City estimates of around 4.25 per cent.

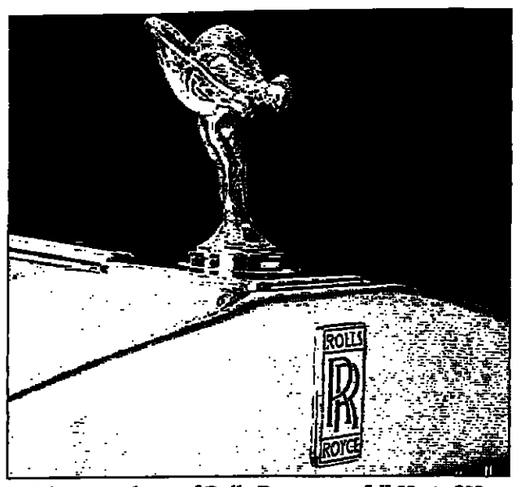
At his last monthly economic meeting with the Chancellor, Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, called for a rise in rates. But, as the minutes of the meeting published yesterday show, he was again overruled by Kenneth Clarke. Brokers say it now seems likely that rates will be forced up quickly after the election.

This was enough to unsettle investors and left gilts nursing falls of almost £1, while a near 70-point setback for the Dow Jones industrial average after the latest rise in the US inflation numbers undermined equities. The FT-SE 100 index wiped out an early lead of 15 points to close 24.6 down at 4,332.2. Turnover was a healthy 902 million shares bolstered by numerous bed and breakfast transactions designed to establish tax losses before the financial year end.

A sharp rise in the price of crude overnight in New York attracted fresh demand for the oil companies. **Enterprise Oil** grew 16½p to 663p, **Cairn Energy** 56p to 634½p, and **Monument Oil and Gas** 1p to 87p. **BT** jumped a further 19p to 461½p, stretching its lead over the past two days to 25p. It follows a presentation on Monday for brokers to discuss future strategy after the acquisition of MCI. The MCI deal is aimed at enabling the group to achieve international status. By the close of business a total of 33 million shares had changed hands.

Cable and Wireless rose 3p to 509p after playing down speculation that it was about to bid for Sprint, the US telecoms group. The insurers were unsettled by suggestions that a Labour government would increase corporation tax. **Commercial Union** fell 13½p to 678p, **General Accident**, 16p at 806p, **Prudential** 11p at 569½p, and **United Assurance** 9½p at 515p.

Whispers about an imminent profits warning saw



Vickers, producer of Rolls-Royce cars, fell 22p to 239p

Carpetright touch 547½p before rallying to close 16½p down at 562½p. The company moved quickly to dispel market rumours. Ian Sneyd, finance director, who was yesterday meeting fund managers at the offices of Kleinwort Benson, the broker, said the company had no plans to make any formal announcement. Brokers were currently looking for between £33 million and £35 million.

The speculation follows recent profit warnings from **Limelight Group**, down 10p at 97½p, and **MFI**, 1p lighter at 144½p. Stronger than expected performances from its B&Q and Woolworth outlets helped **Kingfisher** to exceed City expectations with pre-tax profits growing from £311.7 million to £388.7 million. Brokers have now begun upgrading their estimates for the current year. The shares responded with a jump of 22½p to 697p. The news from Kingfisher also boosted **Dixons**, up 11½p to 508p, **Next**, 10p to 595p, and **Marks & Spencer**, 7p at 472p.

High-flying **Xenova Group** soared 100p to 435p on news of its tie-up with larger rival Zeneca to develop and market drugs. Xenova has also confirmed that its XR5000 and XR9051 cancer therapies are about to enter phase two and phase one trials respectively. **Zeneca** was 3p lighter at £17.76. **First Leisure** finished 16½p shy at 345½p as a large line of stock went through the market. A line of 450,000 shares was recorded at 353p followed by two lines of 250,000 at 349p and 354½p respectively. There was much scratching of heads at **Hay & Robertson** where the price touched 105p before ending a net 3½p down on the day at 124p. The price has come back from a peak of 178p this year much to the astonishment of the board which knows of no reason for the fall.

News of a boardroom departure left **E W Faet** 6p lower at 66½p. Andrew Perkins is resigning as chief executive after just two months in the job. The accountancy training specialist saw profits rise 74 per cent to £1.69 million although competition is increasing. **Vickers** has become the latest company to feel the affects of a strong pound. The price dropped 22p to 239p despite lifting profits last year 11 per cent to £83.3 million. But brokers say the strong pound could hold back profits growth.

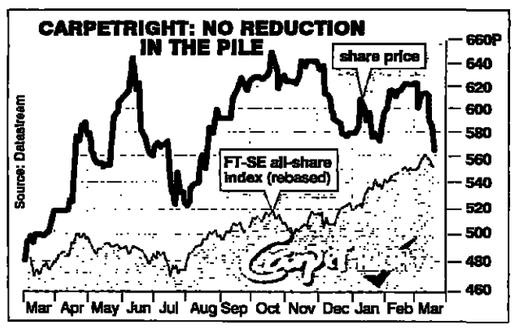
A positive statement on current trading lifted **Marley** 6p to 125½p. Profits last year were almost doubled with debt halved. A doubling of pre-tax profits also helped **Trinity International** to a rise of 15p at 503½p. Positive trading statements were good for **Devro**, 15p stronger at 280p, **UniChem**, up 12½p at 260p, **Aegis**, 2p firmer at 62¼p, and **CNC Properties**, 3p dearer at 68½p, while a return to the black supported **Television Corporation**, 4½p better at 197p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED**: Those higher than expected average earnings numbers cut a swath through the bond market and produced a further flattening of the yield curve. The prospect of an early rise in interest rates after the election seems to be growing by the day.

Prices at the longer end suffered early falls and continued drifting to close at their low point. In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt ended £$^{27}/_{32}$ down at £109$^{5}/_{16}$ as a total of 115,000 contracts were completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 fell £1$^{1}/_{16}$ to £102$^{11}/_{16}$, while among shorter dated coupons Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £$^{3}/_{8}$ off at £102$^{19}/_{32}$.

☐ **NEW YORK**: A broad sell-off in the high technolgy sector led Wall Street shares lower in morning trading. Analysts said that weakness in the leaders had had a demoralising effect on the overall market. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 66.47 points at 6,830.09.



Parity, the computer software group, fell 10p to 533½p after HSBC James Capel, the broker, placed one million shares at 527p. They belonged to Philip Swinstead, deputy chairman, reducing his holding to two million. The shares were acquired in 1993 at 60p when he led the original management buy-in.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones ..... 6830.09 (+66.47)
S&P Composite ..... 780.31 (+9.35)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average ..... 18493.71 (+48.51)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng ..... 12651.42 (+97.49)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index ..... 735.04 (+6.69)

Sydney:
AO ..... 2385.2 (+10.1)

Frankfurt:
DAX ..... 3315.93 (+24.74)

Singapore:
Straits ..... 2120.56 (+3.73)

Brussels:
General ..... 11819.20 (+74.15)

Paris:
CAC-40 ..... 2596.77 (+22.82)

Zurich:
SKA Gen ..... 948.70 (+4.90)

London:

FT 30	2868.7 (+12.5)
FT 100	4332.2 (+24.6)
FTSE Mid 250	4652.9 (-8.6)
FTSE 350	2143.1 (+10.5)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2141.03 (+5.83)
FT All-Share	2115.4 (+10.16)
FT Non Financials	2176.02 (+5.28)
FT Fixed Interest	118.10 (-0.13)
FT Govt Secs	94.07 (-0.51)
Bargains	62274
SEAQ Volume	902.2m
US$	1.5968 (-0.0008)
German Mark	2.6850 (+0.0207)
Exchange Index	96.3 (+0.6)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.3812
£:SDR	1.1523
RPI	154.4 Jan (2.8%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	153.9 Jan (3.1%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Aortech	120½	...	
Aurora Inv Trust	100	...	
Birmingham City	46½	–	2½
Cambridge Mini Res	14	...	
Centrica (75½)	58¾	–	1½
Core Group	301	+	3½
Dobbies Grdn Ctrs	260	...	
Energy Group (525)	483½	–	11½
Grovend Csh Sys	188½	...	
Howie	31	+	½
M & G High Cap	9	...	
M & G High Income	68½	...	
M & G High Pckg	100	...	
M & G High Unit	78½	...	
Nord Anglo Edctn	149½	–	½
Psd Group	263½	–	8
River & Merc 1st UK	100	...	
Screen	5½	...	
Technoplast	110½	–	2
Usher of Trowbridge	120½	...	
VFG	41½	...	

RIGHTS ISSUES

Grantchstr n/p (137)	38	+	½
PTS n/p (100)	16½	–	3½
Partco n/p (300)	34	...	

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Weir	243½p (+26p)
Cairn Energy	634½p (+56p)
Euro Telecom	234p (+19p)
Kenwood App	148½p (+11p)
Devro	280p (+15p)
Courtauld Text	264p (+13½p)
Smart (J)	247½p (+10p)
Kingfisher	697p (+22½p)
Enterprise	663p (+16½p)
Dixons Group	508p (+11½p)

FALLS:

Danka Bs Sys	512½p (-65p)
Prism Rail	295p (-30p)
Vickers	239p (-22p)
Regent Inns	309p (-21½p)
Alexon	181½p (+10p)
Slagecoach	689p (-34½p)
JBA Hldgs	790p (-25p)
Elsevier	991½p (-31p)
AEA Tech	505p (-25p)
Lloyds TSB	499p (-14½p)

Closing Prices Page 35

TEMPUS

Rain on the parade

WHY is City advice so expensive? Poor old UniChem has just paid more than £16 million to various bankers, lawyers, underwriters and masseurs of the media for their part in its failed attempt to take over Lloyds Chemists. For roughly the same money, UniChem bought 40 chemist shops last year: an investment more likely to yield dividends.

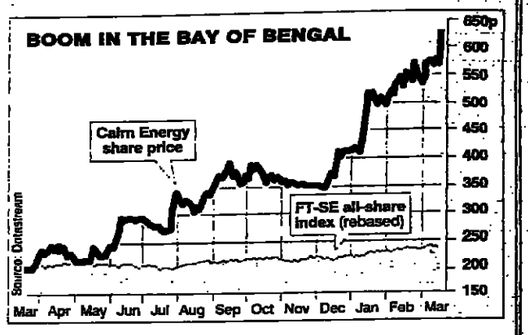
Bids are not a bad thing; they can shake up sleepy, self-satisfied managers and UniChem's strategy was not flawed but merely beaten by a wealthy German rival. It is the cost of bidding which has become absurd and threatens to discredit the process. Frequently, a bid is little more than a beauty parade between two sets of managements who want to attract capital. The directors sing and dance and the fund managers try to pick a winner. Unfortunately, the process has attracted the parasitical attentions of self-appointed experts: the City's choreographers and beauticians. Their antics often eclipse their clients but the bills have to be paid and, ultimately, the cost is borne by us all.

But why should bid advice be expensive? Underwriting is a cost — UniChem paid £45 million — but competition between capital providers should keep the price down in a strong equity market. The cost of people is more difficult to defend. All bids follow a script written in the Takeover Code; each side attacks the other's track record: extravagant but vague claims are made about the future. There is little ingenuity or imagination involved and the outcome is decided by fund managers who weigh up their greed for a higher price against fear of losing money on the table. This is hardly rocket science.

Cairn Energy

CAIRN is a classic oil and gas exploration play which is coming right in spectacular fashion. It also fuels the debate about how small oil explorers should deploy their resources. Unlike rivals that spread their eggs in many baskets, Cairn is almost exclusively invested in the Bay of Bengal, an area it targeted at a time when others considered it high political risk. However, the company correctly guessed that energy demand would soar and that necessity would compel Bangladesh to open up its economy to foreign investment. As a result, Cairn owns rights over two blocks the size of 75 blocks in the North Sea. One of them has yielded the Sangu field where Cairn reckons that, on an unrisked basis there may be 1 trillion cubic feet of gas. More wells to be drilled this year should add to reserves and a joint venture with Shell will bring financial resources to exploit Cairn's huge acreage.

Gas is the key to Cairn's gamble and the link-up with Shell's technology: Bangladesh has demand for most of the existing gas but more discoveries bring the prospect of exports to India, where industrial development has created an acute energy shortage. The country currently imports expensive liquefied natural gas at twice the price paid by Cairn's power station customer in Bangladesh. Piping gas to India opens bigger markets and profits further down the gas chain.



Kingfisher

RESULTS from Kingfisher, like a bag of pick'n'mix from Woolies, were full of good things to chew over with — for once — no nasty surprises lurking at the bottom.

Most welcome was confirmation that B&Q is outstripping all others in the DIY sector, extending its lead with a 9.9 per cent increase in like-for-like sales, well ahead of the sector's 6 per cent growth. Impressive, albeit helped by continuing problems at its rivals: Wickes, Sainsbury's Homebase and Do It All.

Growth at Woolworths was outstanding with like-for-like sales up 8.2 per cent, while Comet showed a strong recovery and Darty held its own in a weak French market.

Having got this far, the problem for Kingfisher is how to turn recovery into strong long-term growth. Some reckon the electricals market, where Comet battles Currys and Dixons, is about to plateau. As Comet gains sales, the leaders could retaliate, preventing it from building up its weak margins.

Maintaining the momentum at Woolworths means more stores and the company reckons there is room for 40 big city centre stores, adding 15-20 per cent to selling space. Getting the sites with *ad hoc* purchases could take five years so there must be a temptation to find a shorter route and Littlewoods is on the market. Nevertheless, Kingfisher is not a reckless buyer, cautious to move into new territory, such as its Asian venture. Even after yesterday's 3 per cent jump in the share price, there is more room for growth.

Rexam

THE giant car boot sale of 20 unwanted businesses set up in January by Rexam has been quick to deliver results. Three companies have been sold, one business is in solicitor's hands and a further four or five disposals are at advanced stages of negotiation. The packaging conglomerate will not find it so easy after buyers have picked off the best of the bunch. Nevertheless, Rexam is to be given credit for swift action to protect itself from a wobbly market.

Apart from the asset sales, Rexam is pruning internally, with the closure of a couple of paper plants and the loss of 1,200 jobs. The restructuring should deliver £20 million in annual cost savings although they will not hit the profit line until next year.

The reshaping of Rexam should not only deliver a leaner and more focused beast but also one that enjoys better market positions than it may so far have been given credit for. Rexam is still a creature of the paper cycle. With pulp prices having hit bottom, Rexam will face the tricky business of maintaining its margins as costs rise.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	1009 SLR	May	1085-1062
May	1016-1015	Jul	1078 SLR
Jul	1025-1022	Sep	1091 SLR
Sep	1037-1032	Dec	1104 SLR
Dec	1035-1032		
Mar	1053 SLR		Volume: 3658

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	1685-1665	Nov	1630 SLR
May	1670-1665	Jan	1610-1580
Jul	1665-1658	Mar	1585-1550
Sep	1648 BID		Volume: 4464

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	301.7-98.7
Spot: 309.3		Mar	301.4-00.2
May	306.0-05.9	May	304.0-07.5
Aug	309.5-05.0	Jun	unq
Oct	301.5-01.2		Volume: 829

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 18

(p/kg lw)	Pigs	Sheep	Cattle
GB	82.48	149.57	99.65
(+/-)	-1.51	-1.38	+1.29
Eng/Wales:	83.12	150.56	98.53
(+/-)	-1.56	-1.58	+1.21
(%)	-3.0	+19.0	+17.0
Scotland:	75.48	146.19	103.55
(+/-)	-0.70	-1.02	+1.69
(%)	+14.0	-3.0	+13.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	19.70	+0.45
Brent 15 day (May)	20.40	+0.45
Brent 15 day (Jun)	20.30	+0.50
W Texas Intermediate (May)	21.95	+0.60
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	21.75	+0.55

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	210 (+1)	211 (+1)
Gasoil EEC	179 (+5)	180 (+5)
3.5 Fuel Oil	87 (+3)	89 (+3)
Naphtha	195 (n/c)	200 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Apr	175.00-75.25	Jul	177.75-79.25
May	176.25-76.50	Aug	179.00-79.25
Jun	177.00-77.25		Vol: 1452s

BRENT (6.00pm)

May	20.40-20.43	Aug	n/a
Jun	20.33 SLR	Sep	19.89 BID
Jul	20.19-20.33		Vol: 26348

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	99.70	Mar	94.00
May	101.35	May	94.00
Jul	103.75	Sep	92.75
Sep	95.00	Nov	94.75
Nov	97.00	Jan	96.75
	Volume: 1035		Volume: 66

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Apr	57.0	53.5
May	62.0	57.5
Jun	unq	67.5
	Volume: 81	

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Apr 81.00-81.50

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 97	1502	1503	1505
Apr 97	1602	1593	1593
May 97	1570	1565	1570
Jul 97	1330	1310	1310
Vol: 85 lots		Open interest: 3180	
		Index 1493 +3	

(Official) (Volume prev day)

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE — Rudolf Wolff

	Cash:	3mth:	Vol:
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2376.0-2377.0	2336.0-2337.0	150312S
Lead ($/tonne)	697.50-698.00	691.00-691.50	236700
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1263.0-1263.5	1285.0-1285.5	420975
Tin ($/tonne)	6010.0-6020.0	5990.0-6000.0	25360
Aluminium Ht Gde ($/tonne)	1608.0-1609.0	1643.5-1644.0	213952S
Nickel ($/tonne)	7860.0-7870.0	7950.0-7960.0	134184

FTSE INDEX (*4334)

4200	4250	4300	4350	4400	4450
Calls					
Mar	134	85½	42	8½	1	1
Apr	155	117	82½	52	30	15
May	191	153	121½	90½	66	47
Jun	221½	190½	154½	123½	98	74
Dec	337½	—	273	—	217½	—
Puts						
Mar	1	1½	7½	29	71	121
Apr	23	35½	51	71½	101	137
May	52	63	81½	103½	129	158
Jun	70½	86½	104	122½	148½	175
Dec	136	—	170½	—	214	—

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Mar 97	110-25	110-25	109-23	109-27	1927
Previous open interest: 20b455	Jun 97	110-11	110-12	109-02	109-10	116394
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Jun 97	100.08	100.34	99.95	99.95	228326
Previous open interest: 229837	Sep 97	99.34	99.34	99.20	99.10	103
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Jun 97	124.45	125.10	124.35	124.87	70564
Previous open interest: 111242	Sep 97	124.72	124.72	124.72	124.92	24
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Jun 97	126.13	126.13	125.98	125.98	1329
	Sep 97				124.60	0
Three Mth Sterling	Mar 97	93.74	93.75	93.69	93.69	11902
	Jun 97	93.52	93.52	93.31	93.33	81714
Previous open interest: 524802	Sep 97	93.29	93.30	93.05	93.06	63639
Three Mth Euromark	Jun 97	96.68	96.70	96.66	96.68	21715
Previous open interest: 1163154	Sep 97	96.57	96.60	96.55	96.57	26354
Three Mth Eurolira	Jun 97	92.74	92.80	92.71	92.77	28684
Previous open interest: 24208	Sep 97	92.96	93.05	92.90	93.02	33047
Three Mth Euroyen	Sep 97				94.20	0
	Dec 97	99.05	99.05	99.05	99.05	100
Three Mth Euroswiss	Jun 97	98.16	98.17	98.09	98.12	6566
Previous open interest: 84962	Sep 97	98.13	98.14	98.06	98.08	3274
Three Mth ECU	Jun 97	95.67	95.67	95.65	95.66	1569
Previous open interest: 30015	Sep 97	95.62	95.62	95.59	95.60	353
FTSE 100	Mar 97	4360.0	4377.0	4317.0	4331.0	21697
Previous open interest: 75374	Jun 97	4393.0	4400.0	4336.5	4352.0	13219

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6½ Low 5¹⁵/₁₆ Week fixed: 6
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5¹⁵/₁₆ : 3 mth 5¹⁵/₁₆ . Sell: 2 mth 5¹⁵/₁₆ : 3 mth: 5¹⁵/₁₆ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6-5¹⁵/₁₆	6¹/₁₆-5¹⁵/₁₆	6¹/₁₆-6	6¹/₁₆-6¹/₁₆	
Sterling Money Rates:	6¹/₁₆-6¼	6¹/₁₆-6¼	6¹/₁₆-6¼	6¼-6³/₁₆	6¹/₁₆-6¼
Interbank:	6¹/₁₆-6¼	6¹/₁₆-6¼	6¹/₁₆-6¼	6¼-6³/₁₆	6¼-6⁵/₁₆

Overnight: open 5¹⁵/₁₆ close 6 .

Local Authority Deps:	6	n/a	6¼
Sterling CDs:	6¼-6	6¼-6¼	6¼-6¼
Dollar CDs:	5.42	n/a	5.52
Building Society CDs:	6¼-6¼	6¼-6¼	n/a

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5¼-5	5¼-5¼	5¼-5¼	5¼-5¼	5-4
Deutschemark:	3¼-3¼	3¼-3¼	3¼-3¼	3¼-3¼	3¼-2¼
French Franc:	3¼-3¼	3¼-3¼	3¼-3¼	3¼-3¼	3¼-2¼
Swiss Franc:	2-1¼	1¾-1¼	1¾-1¼	1¾-1¼	2¼-1¼
Yen:	¼-¼	¼-¼	¼-¼	¼-¼	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $348.85-349.15 Close: $348.70-349.20 High: $349.40-349.90
Low: $348.00-348.50 AM: $348.95 PM: $349.10

Krugerrand: $347.75-350.75 (£217.75-219.75)

Platinum: $377.25 (£236.65) Silver: $5.30 (£3.255) Palladium: $145.75 (£91.20)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for March 19

	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.0092-3.0300	3.0238-3.0263	¼-par	2¼-2¾pr
Brussels	55.120-55.550	55.353-55.450	14-9pr	40-33pr
Copenhagen	10.201-10.839	10.244-10.250	¼-par	¾-¼pr
Dublin	1.0167-1.0201	1.0182-1.0198	5-1pr	17-10pr
Frankfurt	2.6725-2.6908	2.6846-2.6870	¼-par	2¼-2pr
Lisbon	268.92-270.93	270.21-270.45	¼pr-¼ds	¼pr-¼ds
Madrid	226.90-228.51	227.89-228.12	8pr-2ds	2o-8pr
Milan	2681.1-2698.1	2690.3-2691.6	25-40ds	70-98ds
Montreal	2.1892-2.1909	2.1984-2.1999	0.58-0.53pr	1.14-1.05pr
New York	1.5910-1.5984	1.5970-1.5975	0.09-0.07pr	0.27-0.24pr
Oslo	10.781-10.839	10.794-10.802	¼-par	¼-par
Paris	9.0140-9.0780	9.0553-9.0609	2¼-2pr	6¼-6¼pr
Stockholm	12.219-12.276	21.243-21.259	¼-¼pr	¾-¼pr
Tokyo	195.40-196.57	195.95-196.17	1-¼pr	2¼-2¼pr
Vienna	18.807-18.940	18.892-18.911	¼-¼pr	1¼-1¼pr
Zurich	2.2970-2.3126	2.3072-2.3092	¼-pr	2¼-2¼pr

Source: Extel — Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2717-1.2725
Austria	11.83-11.84
Belgium (Com)	34.69-34.74
Canada	1.3735-1.3739
Denmark	6.4190-6.4210
France	5.6755-5.6765
Germany	1.6830-1.6835
Hong Kong	7.7461-7.7471
Ireland	1.5695-1.5705
Italy	1686.7-1687.2
Japan	122.95-123.05
Malaysia	2.4725-2.4735
Netherlands	1.8953-1.8958
Norway	6.7605-6.7655
Portugal	169.41-169.51
Singapore	1.4395-1.4405
Spain	142.85-142.91
Sweden	7.9747-7.9822
Switzerland	1.4460-1.4470

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso	1.5980-1.6030
Australia dollar	2.0314-2.0340
Bahrain dinar	0.5950-0.6070
Brazil real	1.6695-1.6930
China yuan	13.000-13.300
Cyprus pound	0.7485-0.7915
Finland markka	7.9930-8.1060
Greece drachma	418.5-425.5
Hong Kong dollar	12.3729-12.3822
India rupee	56.70-57.72
Indonesia rupiah	3802.0-3870.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4785-0.4895
Malaysia ringgit	3.6043-3.6534
New Zealand dollar	2.3122-2.3160
Pakistan rupee	63.40 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7425-5.8065
Singapore dollar	2.2886-2.2910
S Africa rand (com)	7.0030-7.1050
U A E dirham	5.7935-5.8165

Barclays Bank GTS • Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

31	365	Land Secs	1,610
ASDA Gp	14,000	Legal & Gn	2,700
Abbey Nil	2,100	Lloyds TSB	21,600
Allied Dom	2,300	Lucas Varity	1,500
Argos	617	Marks Spr	10,400
AB Foods	411	Mercury Asset	730
BAA	3,200	NatWest Bk	6,000
BAT Inds	7,800	Nat Grid	3,500
BG	15,200	Nat Power	3,400
BOC	748	Next	1,500
BP	9,100	Orange	2,900
BSkyB	4,900	P & O	614
BTR	6,900	Pearson	1,500
BT	35,500	PowerGen	3,400
Bk of Scot	2,900	Prudential	3,800
Barclays	13,800	RMC	116
Bass	1,800	RTZ	4,400
Blue Circle	658	Railtrack	4,000
Boots	2,700	Rank Group	3,100
Bae	1,500	Reckitt Col	2,600
BA	5,000	Reed Intl	987
Brit Steel	6,100	Rentokil Ini	7,000
Burmah Cstl	518	Reuters	5,200
Burton	2,000	Rolls Royce	3,000
Cable Wire	4,300	Royal & Sun	5,300
Cadbury	4,600	Royal Bk Sct	2,600
Carlton Cms	2,100	Safeway	2,600
Centrica	20,700	Sainsbury	4,500
Cm Union	4,200	Schroders	102
Dixons	3,500	Scot & New	2,300
EMI	965	Scot Power	2,000
Energy Gp	3,700	Svrn Trent	1,400
Enterpr Oil	1,600	Shell Trans	6,800
GKN	1,600	Sieht	2,100
GRE	8,900	Smkl Bch	2,600
GUS	1,400	Smith Nph	4,100
Gen Acc	2,500	Smiths Inds	368
Gen Elec	4,900	Std Chartd	2,100
Glaxo Well	5,900	TI Gp	1,100
Granada	3,100	Tate & Lyle	1,200
Grand Met	7,000	Tesco	6,200
Guinness	5,500	Thames W	1,800
HSBC	4,200	Tomkins	3,500
Hanson	3,600	Unilever	1,900
Hays	896	Utd Utilities	1,000
ICI	1,600	Utd News	1,200
Imp Toh	3,000	Vodafone	9,300
Kingfisher	6,800	Whitbread	982
LASMO	2,200	Wolseley	2,000
Ladbroke	3,700	Zeneca	1,300

WALL STREET

	Mar 19 midday	Mar 18 close
AMP Inc	36¼	37¼
AMR Corp	85⅝	86½
ASA	35½	35¾
AT & T	35⅝	35½
Abbott Lab	60¼	59⅞
Advanced Micro	40¼	41½
Aetna Life	89	89⅝
Ahmanson (HF)	30½	30
Air Prod & Chem	73¼	73⅝
AirTouch Comm	24¼	25
Alberto-Culver B	27⅜	27½
Albertson's	35½	36⅛
Alcan Aluminum	36¼	37
Allied Signal	72½	73¼
Alum Co of Am	73½	73¾
Amax Gold Inc	7¼	7¼
Amerada Hess	53¼	53¾
Amer Brands	51½	52⅜
Amer El Power	41	40½
Amer Express	63⅜	63½
Amer Genl Corp	41¼	42
Amer Home Pr	64½	64¾
Amer Intl	125¼	125⅜
Amer Stores	44	44⅛
Amer Standard	45	45⅜
Ameritech	62¼	62⅜
Amoco	88½	88⅜
Anheuser-Busch	44¼	43½
Apple Computer	16	16⅛
Archer Daniels	17½	18⅛
Armco	5⅜	5⅛
Armstrong Wrld	71	70½
Asarco	30½	30
Au Bchfield	126½	125⅛
Auto Data Pro	43¼	43
Avery Dennison	43¼	43½
Avon Products	55¼	54⅜
Baker Hughes	38⅛	38⅜
Baltim Gas & El	27⅜	27
Banc One	43¼	43⅛
Bank America	113⅛	113½
Bank of NY	38⅜	38⅛
Bankers Tr NY	90½	89½
Barnett Banks	68	67½
Barnes & Lamb	30	29⅞
Baxter Intl	49¼	48½
Bear Stearns	47¼	47½
Bell Atlantic	65⅝	65½
Bell Industries	17⅛	18
BellSouth	44¼	44⅛
Black & Decker	34⅜	34½
Block (HRB)	29¾	29⅝
Boeing	102⅜	103⅛
Boise Cascade	32½	32⅝
Bristol Myrs Sq	66¼	66¾
Browning Ferris	30	30⅛
Brunswick	28½	28⅝
Burlington Nthn	81¼	82⅛
CMS Energy Corp	32⅝	32¾
CNA Financial	114½	114¾
CPC Intl	84½	85⅛
CSX	49¾	50
Campbell Soup	67¼	67⅜
Can Pacific	25¾	25½
Carolina Pwr	36½	36⅝
Caterpillar	80	80⅜
Central & Sth	22½	22⅝
Champion Intl	44½	45
Chase Manhat	108¾	109
Chevron Corp	67½	66⅞
Chrysler	29½	29⅝
Chubb Corp	92¾	93⅛
Ciba Corp	154¼	155½
Citicorp	117⅛	116⅝
Clorox	119¾	120¾
Coastal Corp	42½	43⅛
Coca Cola	60¾	61
Coca Cola Ent	61¼	61⅜
Colgate-Palm	107½	108¼
Columbia Gas	64⅝	59⅞
Columbia/HCA	43	44⅛
Compaq Comp	77¾	74½
Comp

Tough on spending and tough on the causes of spending

Tony Blair first sprang to the public's attention when he invented the famously succinct policy that Labour would be tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime. If Labour wins the election, we shall eventually discover whether this encapsulated a profound insight or was just a pragmatic soundbite. It will certainly not be an easy policy to implement.

Whoever wins the election, the great issue of public finance will be the same. There is a democratic consensus that public spending and taxation should not rise much above the current 40 per cent of national income. If growth of labour-intensive public services such as health and education are even to keep pace with the economy, let alone grow faster, spending elsewhere has to be cut.

Instead, the growth of poverty since the industrial shake-out of the early 1980s has sidelined an ever larger percentage of national income in means-tested social security payments, putting desirable public services under constant pressure. Some £50 billion a year, nearly one fifteenth of national income, is spent relieving poverty and the indignities it brings. The key is to convert as much of this as possible into areas that cut poverty, instead of relieving it, or remove the indignity from low incomes.

Given a few variations round the edges, the war against poverty is much the same as Labour's intended assault on the causes of crime. Most other underlying causes, such as family break-up, are easier for well-meaning politicians to make worse than to repair. So the key to fiscal policy is also the key to law and order policy. If governments switched taxes and family allowances around a bit, they could start set foot on this virtuous circle of falling poverty and welfare spending without painful cuts. In a sensible world, no-one receiving means-tested benefits would at the same time pay income tax. Neither Labour nor Tories seem prepared to raise marginal tax rates higher up the income scale to achieve this. As the churches have discovered, it is also now deemed politically incorrect to give extra tax allowances to one-earner families, who make up most of the working poor.

Labour has two different wheezes. The minimum wage, though endorsed by Mr Blair, looks a rare relic of the old party programme. It is likely to be set so low that it offers only limited help to poor families but also carries little threat to low-wage employment. No breakthrough there.

New Labour's centrepiece is a "temporary" new tax on utilities to act as a sort of up-front float for the war on poverty. This cash would be used to train more young people for an economy that has lost millions of unskilled male jobs. By the time it has run out, Labour hopes, a generation of potential unemployed will be converted from the dead end of poverty to the mainstream of taxpayers, starting the virtuous circle. If this works, the benefits to all taxpayers would be so great that the utility tax (though not its sanctimonious overtones) could be a price well worth paying. But this is a long shot. The chances of the programme paying for itself in lower welfare payments by the end of the coming Parliament look small.



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Spending dilemmas are therefore likely to remain. Nowhere will they be sharper than in the fight against crime and the threat of crime, which probably imposes more indignity on the poor than anything else. The training programmes financed by the utility tax should take some frustrated dead-enders off the streets even if they do not pay for themselves, but will not quickly do much about the causes of crime.

The main emphasis will therefore have to be on being tough on crime. That is becoming ever more expensive. Locking up more regular lawbreakers for longer appears to be effective at cutting crime in the short run, by deterring others or, more clearly, be keeping criminals out of circulation. In Britain, crime rates accelerated sharply when governments tried to save money and souls by avoiding imprisonment if at all possible. In America, crime fell, albeit from a higher base, when public pressure forced more and longer imprisonment. In Britain, reported crime has edged down again ever since tougher penal policies came in.

Tory spending estimates allow for extra prison numbers and prison places. But most of the extra places would be provided by the private sector and there would still not be enough to cope with the latest watered-down Crime Bill. The spending plans Labour would inherit also allow for 5,000 extra police constables. But that would surely not be enough to implement an alternative policy of "zero tolerance", hitting the petty street crimes and nuisance offences that bear hardest on poor people and which set the cultural background for the breakdown of order and for more serious crimes.

The Home Office's Budget only accounts for about £7 billion a year out of total public spending of £315 billion. It would be easy to spend a little more here. Avoiding that, however, is what spending disciplines are all about. To achieve any radical impact on crime within five years, Labour would probanbaly have to think hard about the key intermediate cause of street crime and burglary: financing drug use. Yet the main parties have stayed their hand on this as stoically as on monetary union.

There were 115,000 actual drug seizures last year, a record as usual. More than 90 per cent were cannabis or amphetamines. Most offenders were merely cautioned, only 8 per cent imprisoned. The drug problem is not being seriously tackled and soft drug use is not subject to "zero tolerance". The laws of supply and demand ensure that the drug market remains healthy.

Given Gordon Brown's fiscal edicts, Labour crime battlers would have to decide whether to show zero tolerance to drugs, as a lever to cut other crimes, or to legalise soft drugs in order to cut their price and cut crime that way. When the debate comes, cash will doubtless not figure.

Krupp *v* Thyssen is an attack on cosy corporatism, says **Oliver August**

Bid battle with Clausewitzian echoes



Steelworkers from the Thyssen plant in Duisburg take to the streets yesterday in protest at the proposed takeover by Krupp-Hoesch

Clausewitz famously asserted that war is the continuation of politics by other means. The 19th century German thinker concentrated on warfare involving knives, guns and spears. But his theory can easily be applied to industrial takeover battles.

The weapons wielded in the City are order books and press releases but the strategies to achieve a shift in power are the same. Bankers and advisers are trying to outflank each other as if they were refighting the Napoleonic wars.

Yet the current takeover battle in the steel sector of Germany is a rarity. Krupp has made a hostile £5 billion bid for its rival Thyssen, which could create one of the world's largest steel producers, with 18 million tonnes of annual output.

The two companies are the backbone of German steel production in the Ruhr valley and among the most important employers in the region. But they are notoriously inefficient and overstaffed. A merger has been talked about for the last decade and advocated by analysts for even longer.

If the two companies were British, the bid announcement would have been greeted with relief. Shareholders would long have demanded such a move. Not so in Germany, where takeovers are anathema to the business culture. Production was disrupted immediately at Thyssen, bosses were pelted with eggs and the national media said that the corporate raiders were bent on wanton destruction of productive assets. The *Frankfurter Rundschau* newspaper claimed that the merger was "a game of Monopoly of a size and consequence that has never before been played out in German industrial history".

Foreign industrialists are always puzzled that there is no word for shareholder value in German, which otherwise contains long words for even the most irrelevant concept. In the cosy corporatism of post-war Germany, takeover bids are the commercial equivalent of turning up to a dinner party intent on running off with the host's spouse.

Where the Anglo-American culture hails aggressive bargaining and undisputed success — whether in business or in sport — Germans emphasise cooperation and compromise. These values dominate, on the shopfloor and in the boardroom.

German workers in all but the smallest companies have the right, through representatives, to interfere in the running of their company. Managers will go out of their way to accommodate employees, who make liberal use of their right to strike if their wishes are ignored for long. In private, managers often complain that co-operation can deteriorate into coercion.

A corporatist attitude also pervades among shareholders. Most companies are owned by banks or other industrial companies rather than private individuals. There are two reasons for this. First, few people have private pensions, hence pension funds are not a major player on the stock market. Secondly, the managers of listed companies are trying to protect their company — and hence their own jobs — against takeovers by engaging in mutual shareholding agreements with their rivals. They are assisted by the banks, who believe that cross-holdings are good for growth because they avoid destabilising takeovers.

The origins of this static system can be found in the trauma that Germany suffered in the aftermath of Nazism. When the 1,000-year reich was cut short after 12 years in 1945, many Germans blamed profiteering industrialists for supplying Hitler with guns and tanks without asking any questions.

In the new Germany, they would be tightly bound. Where bosses wanted to make mass sackings they would have to ask for permission first to avoid a repetition of the record unemployment of the 1930s that helped to bring Hitler to power.

The more enlightened industrial leaders are now waking up to the fact that Germany's political trauma is causing economic harm. While Germany was catching up with America during the Fifties and Sixties the compromise culture worked well because few hard decisions had to be made. The economy was booming and there was enough for everyone.

But not anymore. German unemployment is again at 1930s levels. Yet the majority of voters still resists the conclusion that corporatism is the cause of the problem, not the solution. That is why Gerhard Cromme, chief executive of Krupp, has become a hate figure. "Where is the killer?" and "String him up!", Thyssen workers chanted yesterday.

Herr Cromme is one of the Clausewitzian foot soldiers using the takeover weapon to bring about political change. If he is successful then the mythical *Sozialemarktwirtschaft*, or social market economy, may finally make way for a more dynamic form of capitalism.

The political shock waves from the Krupp-Thyssen battle may be felt in the British Isles. Stakeholding, in which workers receive a stake in their company, is the guiding ideology of Tony Blair's Labour Party and is based on the German model.

But Labour's use of Germany as a role model is looking increasingly odd given the cracks appearing on the country's economic façade. Will Hutton, in *The State We Are In*, said: "While there is always a tension between the need for adjustment in the market economy and the need for continuity and commitment, the Germans ... have found ways of reconciling this tension successfully."

Herr Cromme would certainly not agree. The situation has become so tense that his entirely sensible move is being viewed as a devious act. Rather than resolving tension, the German system is programmed to maintain continuity at almost any price.

But Herr Cromme has not won his fight yet. Many vested interests, from unions to politicians, will defend the so-called Rhine model of capitalism. He will come under intense political pressure to back down. Chancellor Kohl needs to push through further budget cuts to meet the Maastricht criteria for monetary union. The pain created by that will become unacceptable to the public if unemployment rises further.

With a general election next year, the government will want to take few chances. And thanks to Germany's corporate system, politicians have a surprisingly large amount of influence over industry.

The ominous first signs of yet another compromise were visible yesterday. Thyssen and Krupp agreed to talks on setting up a joint company, the state government of North Rhine-Westphalia said. The talks are expected to last eight days and if agreement is reached, the takeover may become unnecessary.

A state government spokesman said: "Should the talks produce no result, then both sides would return to their original positions." The talks were arranged by Johannes Rau, Prime Minister of North Rhine-Westfalia, who had denounced Krupp's bid as reminiscent of the "Wild West".

Analysts have pointed out that even if the takeover clears all domestic hurdles, there is still the European Commission. It made no official comment but EU sources said that the case would probably have to be examined under competition rules. The takeover would create the third-largest steel group in Europe in terms of output after British Steel and France's Usinor Sacilor SA.

The spokesman for Karel van Miert, the EU's competition commissioner, said: "We have not received anything from the *Bundeskartellamt* or the companies involved." But other sources thought Brussels would almost certainly have the power to investigate the bid because of both companies' significant sales outside Germany.

Such an overwhelming counter-attack from a power situated to the west of Germany would have been only too familiar to Clausewitz. In his time, the Prussian army had to yield to the *force majeure* of Napolean. But his theory stands nevertheless. Germany's corporate culture is under threat even if it manages to extinguish Krupp's bid.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Its good to talk tax treatment

JUST when the Inland Revenue thought the fuss over Michael Allcock had subsided comes news that a TV company is planning a drama "loosely based" on the crooked tax inspector's exploits.

ABTV, maker of *The Wimbledon Poisoner*, is researching a fictional version of the steamy tale, aimed at the BBC or Channel 4. The lead role has not yet been lined up it seems, but now that Bob Hoskins has cut his ties with BT...

An inspector calls

MEANWHILE, an equally surreal saga at the Revenue has come to the attention of the House of Commons. The Select Committee on Public Accounts is looking into a tip-off claiming cash is being wasted in a witch hunt at the Revenue solicitor's office. Staff are being investigated to see who penned a pair of "malicious" anonymous memos. They included an attack on office head, Brian Cleave, alleged to have worn trousers that were too short. The Revenue insists other "nastier" claims merited the shake-down.



Knight watch

ANGELA KNIGHT, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, was taken to lunch by her team yesterday. Eleven headed to the press gallery restaurant for what a fellow diner referred to as a "thoroughly boozy" end-of-term celebration. To show their appreciation, they all chipped in and sent Ms Knight away with a hardback copy of *Yes Minister*, signed by all the gang.

Diplomatic dip

WHEN word reached Mike Delaney that the wife of the British ambassador in Paris was looking to promote foods from her homeland, he rustled up samples of his own-recipe mustard *tout de suite*. So enamoured was Lady Sylvia Jay with the pungent condiment that she put in a bulk order, along with a special request for customised labels to be emblazoned "British Embassy Mustard".

Hired hand

FROM words to whisks, Charles Skinner is changing jobs. On April Fool's Day, he will move from editor of *Management Today* to become chief executive of Brandon Hire, the tool and catering equipment hire company. Before journalism, when Skinner was working at *3i*, he advised John Laycock, current chief executive of Brandon Hire and soon to be chairman, on selling his business Jay Fastners.

MORAG PRESTON

BUSINESS LETTERS

A convergence compromise that meets national requirements on EMU

From the Director, Economic Research at SBC Warburg

Sir, Amidst all the talk of an EMU delay it is important to appreciate that Germany's economic data problem is a relative, not absolute one. In other words will 1997 German numbers be good enough relative to Italy's to justify the latter on January 1 1999.

Put another way the diplomatic conundrum is how to find the formula that allows Chancellor Kohl to reassure his electorate that Italy will not be "in" at the start of EMU but also permits Prime Minister Prodi to claim the opposite. Does such a formula exist? The answer is yes.

At the spring 1998 assessment an announcement could be made that in 1999 there will be two formal start dates, January and July. The hard core (Germany, France, The Netherlands, Austria, Belgium, Luxembourg, Finland, Ireland) could be invited to start on January 1, 1999. Those countries that had missed qualification on the basis of the 1997 data could be given an undertaking that their 1998 data would be examined very early in 1999 (perhaps February-March). Provided the 1998 data demonstrated further convergence those remaining member states could join EMU in July 1999.

Thus Chancellor Kohl could, during the March-October 1998 election period, look his voters in the eye and say that Italy was not "in" at the start and that fears of a soft euro were accordingly unfounded. Meanwhile Prodi could claim that Italy would be "in" by July 1999. During that January-July 1999 interim period, Italy and any other states in the same category, could have a non-voting seat on the new European Central Bank and a commitment by that body to intervene to defend the euro-lira rate. To reinforce the credibility of this arrangement the Italian Government could undertake to honour all its lire debt obligations in euros.

Of course, no one involved in this intricate process could admit to this, or any other deal, yet. But should the politicians, to coin a phrase, converge on this compromise, EMU could start on time and be "wide" by the end of 1999.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN YORKE,
Director, Economic Research,
SBC Warburg,
1 High Timber Street,
London EC4.

Provision of support for exporters seeking customers at trade fairs

From the Minister for Trade, The Department of Trade and Industry

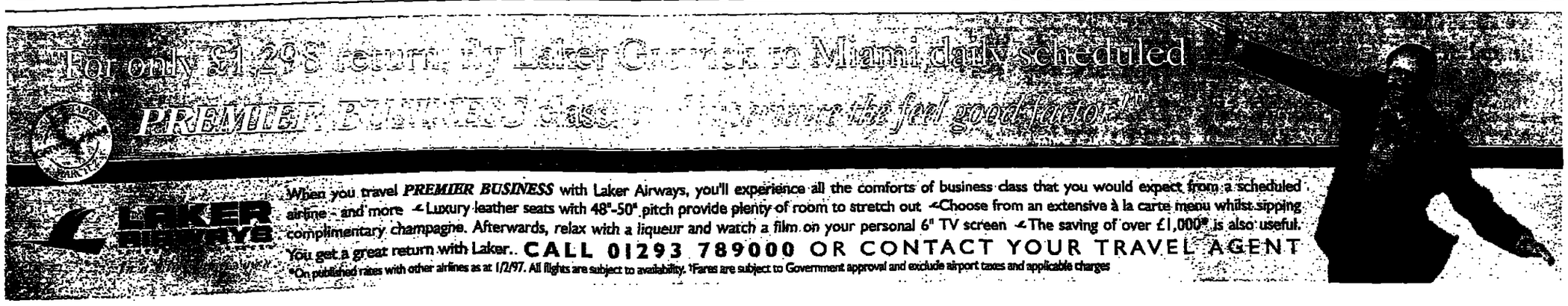
Sir, As Minister for Trade, I am well aware of the concerns of Ian Campbell and others over the transfer of trade fair support to Sector Challenge. However, I believe that these concerns are misplaced.

The Government is fully committed to assisting businesses in attending trade fairs. The Sector Challenge programme expands the potential resources available for trade fairs.

Obviously they must show value for money, but I share Ian Campbell's view that they will not find it difficult to do so, because they make an outstanding contribution.

The quality of the bids received for Sector Challenge funds was excellent. Britain's exporters sold record amounts of goods overseas last year. Sector Challenge is there to help them to do even better.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY NELSON,
The Department of Trade and Industry,
1 Victoria Street, SW1.



High taxes eat into Exco profit

Exco, the money broker, yesterday announced a slight decrease in pre-tax profit in 1996 to £18.2 million, from £18.3 million. But after an unusually high tax charge, post-tax profit fell more heavily to £8.5 million, from £11.1 million.

Volumes had declined after March 1996, putting pressure on commissions, although there was a small recovery in October. David Hubbard, chairman, said trading in 1997 had so far given continued cause for caution. A final dividend of 3p is to be paid on May 5. The dividend total of 4.5p for the year is half the 1995 figure.

Sibir Energy to join AIM

Sibir Energy, an oil exploration company based in Russia, is joining the Alternative Investment Market next month valued at £35 million. The company, which is being spun off from Melrose Energy, has raised £3.5 million through a placing with Melrose's shareholders.

The company was bought by Melrose for £19.7 million last June. It has a 20 per cent stake in Ezikhon, the Russian oil group, which entitles it to reserves of 178 million oil barrels. Dealings are expected to begin on April 4.

Coutts deal

Coutts Consulting Group is buying Murray Axmith & Associates, an outplacement consultant based in Toronto, in a deal worth up to C$6 million (£2.75 million) in shares and cash.

ROBIN MAYES



Crispin Davis, chief executive of Aegis, which yesterday reported profits 18 per cent higher at £39.6 million

Aegis at the double in US deals

By Fraser Nelson

AEGIS, Europe's largest buyer of advertising space, is to double its presence in America with the purchase of two media consultancies for up to $44 million.

The company, which last October made its first foray into the US with the acquisition of an advertising agency based in New York, will complete its US expansion after buying ICG, an agency based in Los Angeles. It is also paying up to $14 million for MMA, an advertising consultancy that advises on marketing strategy.

The company, of which Crispin Davis is chief executive, lifted pre-tax profits 18 per cent, to £39.6 million, last year, on sales up 2 per cent, at £3.45 billion. The resumed dividend is 0.6p per share, with a final 0.35p.

Simon Engineering pushed £50.6m into red by charges

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

SIMON ENGINEERING, the storage and process engineering group, fell £50.6 million into the red last year after one-off charges took their toll.

But Michael Davies, chairman of Simon, whose management has been battling to achieve a turnround in the business since 1993, held out promises of a more prosperous future after the company's exit from industrial access equipment. He said: "With the sale of the industrial businesses of the Access Division for $90 million, Simon Engineering will finally resolve the debt and balance-sheet issues that have prevented its full recovery."

Simon pulled out of the industrial parts of its access operation, through which it had become famous as the name on the hydraulic ladders of fire engines, last month with the sale of the division to Terex. The sale, which still hinges on regulatory approval, will enable the company to scale down its debt and to put its pro forma gearing at 43 per cent. Before the sale it had stood at 117 per cent, and work to reduce the debt mountain of £85.2 million had been the priority for Simon.

The group had been struggling to service such a high level of debt while turning in annual profits in the region of £20 million. Now the company says that management resources that had been tied up in dealing with bankers and lenders can be released to focus on Simon's remaining businesses.

The sale is expected to be finalised next month, with a withdrawal from other peripheral parts of access equipment coming after completion.

In the year to December 31, Simon took one-off charges totalling £57.4 million, which included £17 million associated with its departure from access equipment; £7 million for the loss of goodwill with that business; a pension prepayment of £14.9 million; £9.5 million for financial and legal restructuring; and £1 million in final settlement of the long-running legal fight with Butte Mining.

Simon's remaining two businesses of storage and process engineering produced operating profits of £17.8 million last year, slightly up from the 1995 total of £17.5 million.

Mr Davies said that the divisions offered "good prospects for sustained growth". The bulk of these profits came from the storage arm which raised operating profits by 4.5 per cent to £11.6 million.

Although the company could pay no final dividend it said that it expected to pay one at the interim stage.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

New titles help lift Trinity International

PROFITS doubled at Trinity International Holdings, the regional newspaper publisher, in the year to December 29. The contribution of titles bought from The Thomson Corporation in January last year helped to lift pre-tax profit 104 per cent to £56.2 million, from £27.5 million. Exceptional items included a £5.7 million profit on the sale of Trinity's Canadian publishing operations and a £2.4 million charge for redundancies and restructuring.

Turnover was also boosted by the £327 million acquisition from Thomson, rising 98 per cent to £333 million (£168 million). The operating margin rose to 18.9 per cent (16.4 per cent). Earnings per share were 28.3p (21.5p), excluding the Canadian disposal. The dividend rises to 11.8p (10.7p), with a final 8.2p due on May 2. Philip Graf, chief executive, said that the current year had started well, while the future of the US division was still under review.

Share price set at CAT

CAMBRIDGE ANTIBODY TECHNOLOGY, a specialist in monoclonal antibodies, has priced its shares at 500p, which will value the enlarged company at £109 million when it floats on the stock market. CAT is raising £38 million from a £41 million placing of 8.25 million shares. David Chiswell, the company's chief executive, said CAT was "greatly encouraged by the enthusiasm" from institutional investors. First dealings in the shares will be on March 25.

Clydeport's turnover hit

CLYDEPORT, the privatised port services company with operations at Glasgow, Greenock and Hunterston, suffered a setback in 1996 because of volatility in trade of imported coal from Colombia and South Africa, imported animal feed and forestry products. Pre-tax profits were static at £5.3 million on turnover down to £17.45 million, from £18.18 million. The total dividend rises to 4.8p, from 4.4p, with a final 3.3p. Earnings per share were 13.59p (13.34p).

Xenova in Zeneca link

SHARES in Xenova jumped 65p, to 420p, yesterday after the drug development company announced a collaboration with Zeneca, the big pharmaceuticals group. Zeneca will screen Xenova's "libraries" of natural compounds prepared from plant, fungal and microbial sources in search of potential new drugs. Zeneca will have exclusive rights to the products, but Xenova will receive milestone payments and royalties. Xenova also reported pre-tax losses for 1996 of £7.8 million (£8 million).

No dividend at Try

THE upturn in construction helped Try Group to return to profit last year. The building contractor and housebuilder made pre-tax profits of £1.05 million for 1996, against a £4.3 million loss in 1995. Earnings of 1.52p a share compared with a 6.35p loss last time. There is, however, again no dividend. Try, which ended the year with net cash of £5.5 million, said that it sought to increase its land bank this year. House sales were currently slightly ahead of last year at higher average prices.

Carriers back in black

UNITED CARRIERS, the parcels and freight delivery group, returned to the black in 1996, earning £2.1 million before tax, compared with losses of £1.9 million in 1995. The company said that the turnround reflected higher volumes, particularly in the second half, and cost control. Turnover rose to £136 million, from £127.47 million. Earnings per share of 5.3p compared with a 5.6p loss per share previously. The total dividend rises to 3.4p, from 3.2p, with a 1.8p final.

Bowthorpe plans closures

By Martin Barrow

BOWTHORPE, the electronics and electrical group, reported a fall in pre-tax profits to £72.86 million in 1996, from £77.46 million, after charging almost £8.5 million against restructuring.

The company is to close three businesses in its data acquisition and environmental sectors, with the likely loss of about 100 jobs. Further closures and the merger of some smaller businesses has not been ruled out.

The restructuring follows a strategic review by Nicholas Brookes, chief executive. Anthony Vice, chairman, said Bowthorpe was emerging "as a fitter and refocused group."

In the year to December 31 operating profits rose to £81.7 million (£76.1 million) on turnover that rose to £524.85 million (£470.5 million). There was significant growth in America, driven by automotive and telecommunications, but group profits were held back by weakness of the French and German economies. There was a £1.3 million loss on currency translation, compared with a £2 million gain previously.

Earnings fell to 20.88p a share (23p), but the total dividend is lifted to 10.17p (9.5p), with a final 6.96p. The shares rose 12½p to 401p.

Digital script at Television

By Alasdair Murray

TERRY BATE, chief executive of Television Corporation, said yesterday that the company would work hard this year to take advantage of the arrival of digital television. The TV production company aims to raise capital expenditure to invest in digital production and post-production facilities.

The company recorded profits of £3.1 million in its first full year as a listed company. Turnover was £25.1 million and the company reported earnings per share of 12p. Its shares rose 6p to a high of 198½p.

Television Corp said that all four divisions improved profitability. Bookings at the Molinare post-production and transmission businesses are up 45 per cent in the first part of this year, the facility having recently added a digital edit suite.

The Sunset and Vine production facilities, merged last year, won a contract for Channel Five programming. Visions, the outside broadcaster, reversed losses in 1995, having won contracts with Sky Sports.

Net debt fell to £470,000 (£1.7 million). A final dividend of 2p, makes a 3p total, payable on May 6.

ACCOUNTANCY

Beware the two-pronged attack

Ian Barlow tells companies to prepare to face closer scrutiny from the Revenue's inspectors

The "Spend to Save" initiative, the Chancellor's big Budget idea, comes into force on April 1. The Inland Revenue, the Department of Social Security and Customs and Excise will endeavour to deliver his target of an extra £6.7 billion tax take.

The Revenue's share of this bonanza involves deploying 2,000 additional staff over a three-year period at a cost of £190 million, with the aim of collecting an additional £2 billion in tax. As well as reassigning trained inspectors of taxes to these duties, the department is recruiting some 40 accountants to specialise in investigation work, doubling the existing resource. Nonetheless, the key elements of the team will be in place by the end of this month.

An investigation is far removed from the approach adopted in the agreement of tax liabilities in the past. Substantial costs can be involved, which the taxpayer will have to bear, and significant management time — perhaps extending over years — can be absorbed by it.

Is the collection of an additional £2 billion feasible? In the tax profession, we believe it is a tall order. Since 1992, Revenue investigation work has produced receipts of around £1.7 billion annually. An increase of 40 per cent in the annual take will be difficult to achieve, even with additional manpower, given that the new staff will have to be recruited and trained, and that large investigations take time to reach a conclusion.

More pertinently, it is simply not true that massive amounts of tax are lost to the Treasury through artificial avoidance schemes. January's much-increased government revenue figures reflect the cyclical nature of tax revenue. Most of tax advisers' work is involved with preventing clients being unfairly damaged by spurious tax charges arising from normal commercial transactions, rather than the off-the-wall tax planning often portrayed. The Revenue's explicit attempt to blur the distinction between legal tax avoidance and illegal tax evasion is regrettable.

Nevertheless, as the centrepiece of the Chancellor's Budget strategy, Spend to Save is for real. Larger companies are certain to be the main focus of the Revenue's attention, particularly those with low effective rates of tax.

Half of all corporation tax receipts are collected from little more than 400 companies, so



Ian Barlow says an extra £2 billion tax is a tall order

clearly it makes sense for the Revenue to concentrate their attentions in this area. Companies with substantial international involvement are also vulnerable, because of the scope for dispute on transfer pricing issues: so also are companies regarded as having used aggressive (or even not so aggressive) tax planning techniques in the past.

Companies in the financial sector are also thought to be at risk. Even so, to raise this much money it is inevitable that every branch and district of the Revenue will be under pressure to increase its take.

The Revenue will be developing computer-based systems to select its most suitable targets for investigation. Benchmarking, the process of comparing companies with competitors, will be the basis of its approach. KPMG has responded to this by developing its own analytical model, which weighs companies' performance against benchmark standards to identify those vulnerable to attack.

This takes into account four specific risk factors: the tax compliance history, public information on the company's activities, accounts issues, and membership of any of the Revenue's known target categories. Companies will need this information if they are to keep one step ahead.

What action can companies take? They face attack from two directions. The first concerns process. The sheer scale of many organisations makes it difficult to establish precisely the information required for tax purposes, which is often quite distinct from the needs of commercial accounting.

The second issue concerns handling the Revenue's tougher investigatory stance. Companies will have to examine the robustness of their processes. They need to cover not only the treatment of routine transactions, but also the approach taken to one-off events such as business acquisitions and disposals. Many stand-alone tax departments may be vulnerable, partly because many have been downsized.

The Chancellor is "spending to save". Companies, also, need to be spending now to bring their tax systems up to the mark, if they are to save the potentially enormous costs of an Inland Revenue investigation at a later date.

Ian Barlow is UK Head of Tax, KPMG

Unconventional road leads Tweedie to top

TODAY it will be announced that Sir David Tweedie has won this year's Founding Societies' Centenary Award, the accountancy profession's equivalent of the Nobel prize, though without its money. The award commemorates the 1980 centenary of the English ICA and is made by the four accountancy societies that together founded the original institute. It is a combination of the traditions of the past leavened with a bit of pragmatism from our own times.

Sir David, chairman of the Accounting Standards Board, fits well with the past winners, who have tended, like Sir Paul Girolami, of Glaxo, Jim Thompson, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, and Lord Wakeham, to be people who have followed their own personalities and quirks to good effect. Sir David has great clarity of mind and an amiable disposition. It means that he is able to tell people that they are wrong without them taking too much offence.

Soon after he had got into his stride as chairman of the Accounting Standards Board, Sir David was the subject of a profile in *The Scotsman*. He still has one of the placards that the newspaper used to sell the story to the uneasy folk of Edinburgh framed on his office wall. "The Most Hated Accountant in Britain?", it asked. Certainly not. No one could hate Sir David.



AUDIT

ROBERT BRUCE

They found his views irritating. They could be annoyed when he wrongfoots them over the facts that lie behind some nonsensical piece of off-balance sheet flapdoodle or other. Even Ron Paterson, of Ernst & Young, who has put up with the most spirited opposition to the Tweedie line, would be hard put to say he disliked him. The two of them even have an agreement that one provides the other with a bottle of best malt whisky at the end of the football season. Who does the providing depends on the performance of Partick Thistle and Falkirk. Currently, only goal difference separates them in the Scottish first division.

But behind the charm lies the toughness. You do not manage to reform a whole range of financial reporting rules through which the finance directors of some of the country's finest companies had been managing to drive a coach and horses on the basis of a good repertoire of jokes and a pleasant manner. Sir David's secret lies in the combination of two factors. He is academically brighter than most accountants and he is, to most in the largest accountancy firms, an outsider. That combination allows him to note things that those who are more dependent on the culture of the Bix Six would rather not. And it allows him to refute the arguments of others in a logical way. Much of this comes from his training, his early career and his mentors. It is interesting that the people and institutions he cites as his main influences are all of the Establishment — of which he is fiercely critical when need be.

The first mentor is David Flint, with whom the young Tweedie went to train in the late 1960s at Mann Judd in Glasgow. Flint was already straddling two worlds. He was also Professor of Accountancy at Glasgow University, a post he held for more than 20 years. Sir David recalls an initial dispute over cash. Tweedie, on the basis of both degree and doctorate, wanted the best of the going rates. Flint initially rebuffed him — and then took him on at the rate Tweedie wanted but in the post of Flint's personal assistant. Tweedie was already into a part of the accounting world that relied heavily on traditional skills, instincts and the Establishment — Flint was to become Scots ICA president in 1975 — but which, through the academic influence, looked at accounting within the context of the wider business world. The second influence he would cite is Geoff Whittington, these days Professor of Accounting at Cambridge but who was professor at Edinburgh University when Tweedie, freshly qualified, became a lecturer there. Again, Whittington is an outsider to the profession whose first love was economics. Tweedie then moved into the heart of the Scots accounting establishment as technical director of the Scots ICA. After that, Bill Morrison, then senior partner of Thomson McLintock, brought him into the firm as national research partner. And when Morrison merged the firm into what became KPMG, Tweedie moved to London as national technical partner.

By the time Tweedie was made first chairman of the newly invented Accounting Standards Board in 1990, his qualities for the job were complete. Beyond the deserved recognition for Sir David, the most important message is that clear thinking within the profession does not come from the tried and tested routes.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Technical delay may soon end

IT SEEMS an age since the last technical director of the English ICA cleared his desk and decided to spend more of his time watching cricket. In spite of umpteen revisions of the job descriptions, numerous expensive visits to the headhunters and a salary of £150,000 on offer, no one has come forward to take the post. However, rumour is rife above the chimneys at Moorgate Place — expect an announcement concerning a Big Six partner on the verge of early retirement. Whether he will juggle with the poisoned chalice for long is another question.

Life partnership

A QUARTER of a century ago, the doyen of partnership taxation thought that he would write a book about it. As material for a bestseller it seemed unlikely. But Eddie Ray, then a partner in Spicer & Pegler, has seen his work mushroom through the years. Now we see the fifth edition of *Ray: Partnership Taxation* hitting the streets in loose-leaf fashion. Ray himself has long since taken himself off to a retirement of birdwatching in the Norfolk Broads, but a former partner of his, Nigel Davey, has co-written the book at what is now Deloitte & Touche. Legislation may be pending but Davey is convinced. "Partnerships will go on for ever," he said this week.

Andy experience

MORE rumours surround the imminent step-down of Andrew Likierman, head of the Government's accountancy service and top accounting civil servant at the Treasury. With the report into the governance of the English ICA advocating a high-profile name at the top, some are wondering whether Likierman will pause only to collect his knighthood before taking over the running of the profession from a Moorgate Place eyrie. It would make his efforts to bring a semblance of accruals accounting into the Civil Service seem easy by comparison.

ROBERT BRUCE

Gilts and equities sharply lower

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on *the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend.* Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
556	407½	Allied Domecq	457½	- 6	6.4	13.8
826	477	Bollinger (WP)	624		2.2	18.6
1131	603½	Bass Stewart	681		5.2	16.6
1103	815	Glenmorangie A	1015		1.5	27.6
486	415	Richard Shiff	470½	+ 3½	4.6	15.9
490	424	Robeson	455	+ 2½	4.4	15.1
382	315	Highland Distl	365½	+ 2½	2.8	17.1
809	755½	Matthew (Distr)	779		9.4	15.2
141	91½	Mitchell W	97		4.5	15.9
2612½	1375	SA Breweries	1937½	- 21½	1.8	

BANKS

4708½	2743½	ABN-AMRO	4268½	- 68½	2.8	17.1
811	526	Abbey Nat	732½	- 17	4.5	13.0
455½	315	Alliod Irish	434½	- 3½	4.3	
409½	285	Aus New Z	379½	- 14½	5.0	
7678½	3843½	Bank Austria	6967½	- 271½		
3425½	2237½	Bank Scotland	3395½	- 27½	3.7	12.5
1206	913	Barclays	1076½	- 21	5.7	10.9
629	415	BK of Ireland	615½	- 6½	3.4	13.9
7880½	4031½	Citicorp	7309½	- 118½		
1721½	1268½	Commerzbk	1703½	- 18½	2.6	
1350	888½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1712½	+ 18½	0.6	
34900½	27009½	Deutsche Bk	33845½	- 345½	2.0	
912½	563½	Espirito Santo	3085½	- 6½	3.2	17.6
1507	1000½	Fuji Bank Y	1726½	+ 16½	0.6	
1622½	931	HSBC	1514½	- 20½	3.4	13.1
1563½	930	HSBC HKD	1461½	- 24½	3.5	12.7
695	385	Irish Permt	603½	- 2½	2.7	
534	294½	Lloyds TSB	488½	- 14½	3.3	16.1
8195	566	Nat Aust Bk	777½	- 18½	3.3	16.9
8445	5695½	Nat West	7829½	- 6½	5.2	10.2
6324½	4643½	Nat West 7	5814½	- 6½	5.2	10.6
9005½	547	Royal Bk Scot	581½	- 7½	4.1	12.2
2774½	1731½	Wells Fargo	2184½		2.9	15.2
3743½	264	Westpac	3485½	- 7½	4.8	10.9

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

978½	702	Bass	829½	- 19	3.8	16.2
78	49	BM for the Bst	62½		3.2	17.4
205	149	Belhaven Brw	180½		3.7	17.0
1555½	92	City Center Rest	153½	- 1½	1.8	28.8
744½	463	Compass Grp	697½	- 7½	1.5	27.6
2907½	190	Eldridge P 'A'	286	- 1½	2.3	17.5
2441	413	Forte Sm 'A'	4824½		2.4	16.7
636	529½	Greenalls Grp	590	- 10½	2.8	16.7
758	567½	Greene King	731	- 5	2.7	15.9
286	164½	Grosvenor Rest	205½	- 1	3.7	19.9
295	204	Intnatnl Chest Grp	276½	- 3	3.2	26.5
367	276½	Ladbroke Hanon	352½	- 4	4.6	13.3
3475	2700	Mail J	2750		2.6	14.8
78	45	Inn Business†	72½	+ ½	2.7	
357	288	Mitchells†	357		2.2	16.4
1534	1230	Mitchell Thmp	1385		3.8	10.6
669	524	Morland	610		2.8	16.1
72½	37½	Paramount	37½			
678½	217	PizzaExpress†	676½	+ 7½	0.5	44.3
428	345	Ransctors (Ro)	427½	- 5	3.5	
1787½	239½	Regent Inns†	339	+ 21½	1.0	29.5
709½	691	Scot & Nwc	695	- 3½	3.7	20.8
313	246	Vaux Group	281½	- 1	4.7	17.4
1266	640	Wolverhampton JD	1190	+ 10	1.8	26.5
1010	672	Whitbread	787	- 6½	3.5	16.0
1076	578	Wetherspoon D	687½	- 3½	3.0	15.1
491½	297	Yates Bros	491		3.0	14.8
650	425	Young 'A'	620		3.1	24.7

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

34½	15	AAF Inds	24			
205	135	Abbey	205		3.4	21.0
297½	212½	Allen	294½	+ 4½	2.9	18.0
189½	86½	Amec	125	- ½	3.0	21.1
492	117	Amey	491	+ 1	1.0	23.1
532½	333	Blue Circle	418½	+ 2½	5.6	30.3
269½	152	Ashtead†	263½	+ 9	1.4	25.6
46½	26	Avenside	45		2.8	
43	24	Bailey (Ben) Con	36		3.6	14.1
39½	18½	Bandit	35		5.9	21.9
64½	34	Barrett	61½	- 1	2.4	15.3
291½	219	Bovis Dev	266½	+ ½	3.9	14.9
213	163½	Bozzer	185½	- 2½	4.1	14.5
381½	249	Bellway	344	- 3½	3.0	17.3
145	114	Babcock	287		1.3	16.3
769½	483	Berkeley Gp	765½	+ 1	1.0	7.1
175	133	Britt Bros	158	- 2	4.4	4.6
265	175	Brad (Henry)	265		3.6	11.1
133	77½	Brandon Hire	95½	+ 1	3.6	
35½	19	Bellway Reg	35½		6.8	
70	31	Br Bldg & Eng	59½			
159	104	Bryant	138½	+ ½	4.6	19.3
135½	88	CALA	117½		3.7	15.4
30	5	Campbell & Arm	6½			
91½	37	Charles	91½		8.1	12.8
102	39	Costain†	98			
98½	51	Countrywide†	90	- 2	3.1	26.5
94	54½	Crest Nicholson†	88	- 1½	3.6	18.6
92½	65½	Cassins	87½	- 1	6.0	
230	178	Eng Sharp†	172½		1.7	
28	15	Galliford†	19½	+ ½	2.6	14.8
927½	733	Gleeson (MJ)	927½		2.2	17.3
61	35½	Grass (Ernst)	56½		6.9	17.3
379	265	Hawtock Estn	295½		1.5	22.3
163	119	Hemdn-Stuart	147	- ½	2.7	18.5
22	15	Hollond Hdgs	17½		4.6	16.7
246½	22	Jarvis	223½	- 6½	0.9	
210	126	Kellie	204½		2.7	17.0
250½	172½	Kier	213½	- 1	3.8	19.7
261	244½	Laing (J)	318½		3.5	
152½	97	Laing 5.4% Cv Pf	122½	+ 1	6.7	
21	6½	Lovell (Y)	18½			
218	162½	Maunders (J)	210½		3.5	15.3
197	125½	McAlpine (A)	181		5.4	
119½	66	McCarthy & S	113½	+ ½	2.5	16.7
248	48½	Mckenney	68			
235½	81	Morgan Sindall†	211	- 1½	2.5	18.1
309½	132	Morrison Const	298½		2.0	22.2
136	58½	Muirhead (JI)†	127½	- 1	2.9	14.5
286	173	Persimmon	259½	- 2½	4.7	16.6
150	85	Pochin†	117½		2.7	12.5
145	97	Prowting	143	- ½	5.3	47.5
20	12	Rees Ind	17½	+ ½		13.7
179½	113	Redland	165½		2.6	16.9
330	256	Sheriff Hdgs	295		3.1	16.7
57	33½	Sherco	53½	- 3½	9.3	7.1
578	372½	Speyside	537½	- 9	3.5	
103	72½	Stein Hall	93		3.4	
159	109½	Tay Homes	152½		5.3	32.9
194½	115	Taylor Woodrw	179	- 2	2.8	16.4
617½	408	Tilbury Douglas	617½	+ 2½	4.8	
27	10½	Tiy Group	21	+ ½		12.5
103	58½	Westphalt	69½		7.4	
134½	85	Wainhomes	128½	+ 3½	4.4	
84½	35½	Ward Hdgs	59½		2.5	
277	179	Wedhey	258½	- ½	3.0	22.7
10½	4½	Wellington	10			41.1
190	147	Wilson (Cit)	168½	+ 2	3.6	
545	354	Wilson Bowden	543	+ ½	2.6	18.3
160	121½	Wimpey G	151½	- 3½	4.6	45.8

BUILDING MATERIALS

393	284	BPB	341	- 2½	3.6	15.4
129	91	Baggeridge Brk	107½		3.8	26.4
42	29½	Barlow	37½		6.7	15.2
86	57	Blacktops	39½			
452	332	Blue Circle	418½	+ 2½	5.6	30.3
97	77	Brendon PLC	81½	- 4½	7.4	13.6
149½	108	Br Dredging	137½		5.1	15.9
573	473	CRH	521½	- 3½	1.7	
48	32½	Caledonian Pky	47½		4.3	
192½	140	Cattell	175½		4.3	
374½	195½	Cavaden	259½	+ 4	4.6	26.9
134½	106	Cavaton pl	127½		7.3	
65½	18	Chisholm Sct	58½		9.6	7.8
272½	158	Chrest Lab Sri	247½		2.5	14.6
145	70	Cyrson 'A'†	129		4.9	7.6
7½	2½	Crestcrse	3½			
298	200	Epwin	285	- 4	4.0	16.0
163½	112½	Fibre	118½	- 6½		13.1
98½	80	Gibbs & Dandy	89½		5.0	
209	121	Graham Grp	189		3.2	
406	341½	Hickleton (J)	341½	- 3½	5.4	14.5
427½	272	Hanson	303	+ 3½	5.0	
321	244½	Hepworth	261½		4.1	15.0
30	16	Hewden	24½		4.4	14.9
265	215	Heywd Wlm	252	+ ½	6.8	10.5
79	55½	Hollock	70½	- ½	3.5	15.8
535	335	Johnston	527½		2.7	20.8
88	66	Lilleshall†	78½		7.6	13.8
155	111	Marley	125½	- 6	5.1	13.0
184	122½	Marshalls†	153		4.3	20.6
471	347½	Meyer Int	407½		3.5	36.3
189½	98	Newman Tstcr	173½		5.3	
106	78	Norcros	91		3.5	
28	14½	Pochin Timber	20		7.9	45.4
253	129	Pilkington	136½	- ½	4.8	22.0
364½	174½	Polypipe	241½	+ 2½	1.6	19.8
1196½	979½	RMC Gp	1084	- 4½	3.5	18.5
479½	327	Redland	375½	- 3	3.5	18.5
123	75	Ruskin	75½		7.6	8.4
153	87½	Rutland	110	- 1	6.9	16.6
140	91½	Rugby Group	118		3.8	14.4
131	92½	Ransom (A)	102½		3.3	19.1
342½	196	SIG	291	- 6	2.9	16.2
4½	2½	SMP	2½			
202½	156	Sharpe & Fisher	200	- ½	2.9	20.8
21	10½	Spring Ram	16½			
230	175	Steetley	182½		5.3	12.4
136	85	Tarmac	99½	- ½	7.0	
147	81½	Tilbo	138	- 1	4.5	12.7
545	350	Travis Perkins	542½		2.2	20.7
49½	35½	Tudor	46½		2.7	16.2
514	415	Wolseley	493½	- 1½	2.7	16.2

CHEMICALS

207½	142½	Allnight & Wil	144½	+ 1	5.7	12.3
169½	105½	Allied Colloids	125½	+ 1	2.9	22.4
210	117	Amber Ind	127½		5.8	10.8
109½	66	Amberley Gp	101½	+ ½	1.9	28.0
3	0½	Anglo Lbl	2			8.0
2446½	1443½	BASF Dbl	2346½	- 19½	2.9	
1040	819	BOC	980	- 5	3.7	16.9
334½	248	BTP	261½	- 7	5.1	14.8
2659½	1716½	Bayer DM50	2580½	- 37½	2.2	
1195½	76	Bond Chems	105		3.8	
249½	185½	Br Vita	207	+ ½	5.0	12.4
192½	162	Bronner Mnwtr	173	+ 2	6.0	9.9
311½	192	Cawsey (W)	308	+ 6½	3.5	
1525½	1025½	Clay Technology	2001½			23.4
1089½	355½	Courtaulds	362	+ ½	5.5	16.7
373	294	Croda	305		3.8	14.4
317½	200½	Dodiss	294½		3.8	14.8
302½	248	Ellis & Everard†	313		3.8	14.5
94	60½	Euro Colour	61½	- ½	4.6	12.1
197	82½	Gibbon	86½		10.1	7.1
83	62	Hickson	67			
2800	1750	Hoechst	2550	- 9½	1.9	
168	102	Holliday Chem†	139½		4.7	
958	705½	ICI†	719	+ 2½	5.8	21.2
388	178½	Inspec†	192½	+ ½	4.1	20.9
147	108½	Kalon†	128		3.7	14.9
782	525	Laporte	712½	+ 2	4.4	
325	170	Marden	176		6.9	
169	76	Meridian	89	+ ½	2.7	10.8
37	26	Mentmore	30	- ½	2.9	19.2
459	195	Ponahl†	321½		3.8	12.1
224	218½	Scapa	224½	- 1	3.1	7.7
34	23	Scapa Spain	23½		3.4	27.7
1333½	922½	Tokyo Chem	1300½	+ 8½	0.8	21.7
1183½	897½	Victrex Plc	1152½	+ 4½	4.7	12.1
298	185	Yorks Grp	321	+ 4½	5.3	
388	305	Yule Catto	376		2.8	17.4

DISTRIBUTORS

260½	129½	Action Co Sols	195	- ½		23.8
485	267½	Adam & Harvey	317½	- 5	8.1	8.3
21½	9½	Alexandrs†	18		11.2	7.5
113	64½	Applevard	65		11.5	
4	3	Ass Br Eng	3		2.5	
630	395	BSS Group	520	- 4	4.9	16.2
25	14½	Bearing Power	16			
23	11	Bagnall 'A'	19½		2.5	11.1
685	455	Brammer	621	- 1½	3.0	17.8
27	18	Bridgend Gp	26½	+ ½	4.3	
113	76	Brit Vitaloge	105½	+ ½	4.7	12.6
310	246	Bunzl	305		3.7	16.4
194½	152½	Bur Group	172½	- 1	2.8	16.8
180	105	Cavendish	135	+ 1½	3.3	8.8
107½	72½	Charles, Sidney	87½		4.8	6.7
78	51½	Cook (DC)	67½		9.1	7.5
175	94½	Dng Meiklos	109½	- ½	2.7	14.2
183	125½	Dennison El	126½		2.7	13.2
434	308	Diploma	357½	+ 2	5.1	13.2

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

467½	328	Electrocomponents	416½		2.1	25.4
514	129½	Eurodis Elect	185	- 9½	5.3	26.9
156	85	Eurocastle	137		5.5	12.9
370	215	European Ute	317	- 2½	7.6	8.9
87	39½	Fair Issac	74½		2.7	26
380½	258½	Fenner	365½	- 6	2.1	18.8
54½	35	Gardnerr	38	+ ½	2.6	12.6
81	39½	Glenrothes	73	+ ½		
118	70½	Gowings	99		3.9	
292	72	Hunted	99		7.8	9.0
282	216	Kenx (Philip)	258		4.3	15.8
330½	260½	Hoadlan	319½		7.5	26.5
200	132	Hopkins Tech	148		5.8	14.0
163½	153	ICA Intl	155½		4.8	
316	231	Inchcape	295½	+ 1½	1.6	21.2
38	33	Jacks (Wm)	37½		4.8	18.1
282	168	Kwik-Fit	240½	+ ½	2.7	16.3
290	209	Lex Service	247½	+ 6½	6.5	11.2
152	102	Lookers†	109	+ ½	9.5	7.0
47	18½	Matsee Grp	13½	+ ½	6.3	
34	21	Middlesex	24		2.8	
565	229	Norbain	239½	- 2	3.3	11.7
2540	1900	Pentland	2400½	+ 6½	2.1	10.2
152	102	Lookers†	109	+ ½	9.5	7.0
47	18½	Matsee Grp	13½	+ ½	6.3	
34	21	Middlesex	24		2.8	
565	229	Norbain	239½	- 2	3.3	11.7
2540	1900	Pentland	2400½	+ 6½	2.1	10.2
460	255	Rentokil	395		1.3	26.7
4134½	2616½	Rexnicrux 'B'	3668½	- 43½	2.6	
38	23½	Rotors	29½		1.8	
2266½	1125	Slocross 'B'	2066½	- 62½	1.2	
82	58	Smiths Ind	69		4.8	10.7
545	458½	Spectrum	462½	- 3½	2.3	17.5
697½	530	Surrey Group	578½		2.8	17.9
207½	171½	Tilbrook Grp†	207½		3.9	
102	75	Tomkins Plc	224	- ½	1.2	15.8
100	24	Tomkins Tack	30	+ ½	5.3	
414	341	UEEI	385	- 1	4.1	19.6
171	113	Vitec	170	+ ½	5.0	
1425½	934½	Vind Coldroit	1397½		3.4	14.4
387½	257	Wagon Ind	380½	- 2½	3.7	15.2
131	94	Wadkin	108½		2.9	
338	245	Wolseley-Sirt	312	- 3½	2.4	18.8
2187½	72	Wsh Wlcmbrdr	215½	- 3½	3.9	9.4
472	340	Willett	425			
543	385	Oxford Instr	385	- 5	2.1	14.1
242½	80	Pace Micro†	86	- 2	3.5	9.6
180	84½	Penn Wireless	117½		3.5	
121	77	Qtrs	82	- 3½	3.7	
1195½	786	Racal Elect	1064½		2.6	21.2
1154½	78	Redstone	107½		3.0	20.5
469½	316½	Renishaw†	355	- 7	2.7	16.4
8	1¼	Redtrm	2¾			
315	123	Rotork	215	+ 1	3.9	
2335½	160	SDX Bus Sys	214½	- ½	1.3	29.6
427	317	Semcrex	387½		2.8	
92	62	Silverpoints	83		3.6	18.1
4243½	3003½	TDK	4121½	- 65½	0.7	22.5
115	73½	TGI	74		5.7	7.8
172	92½	TLG	120		4.5	13.3
79	39	Tadpole Tech	209			
134	59	Telemetrix	69	- 1	3.0	12.3
370	133	Telspec	197½		3.4	
345	139½	Thorpe Plc	144½	+ 4	3.5	12.2
36	20	Total Systems†	30½		6.1	9.0
388	197½	Tyrecall	217½		2.8	12.5
52½	9½	Vantis	50		3.5	18.8
273	170½	Vero	247½		6.0	12.6
488	383	Volex	425			
36	18½	Wolesborne	12½			
184½	86½	Wessex	174		1.8	50.3

ENGINEERING

505	277	AMI†	505	+ 5	1.7	17.8
97	59	APV	83½	+ ½	5.3	
98	26½	ASW	30			
497	300	Abacast†	300		3.3	13.8
1001	682½	Alley Equip	822½		2.2	26.5
1482	924	Appleby Metal†	1482		4.2	15.8
2170½	294	BMT	2170½		4.3	13.6
163	112½	BWI	112½		7.4	9.1
145	44½	Babcock	68	+ ½	4.0	
115	6	Bailey (GH)	9½			6.3
444	98	Barnes (Charles)	118½	- ½	3.2	10.5
449	24	Benlaan	38½		2.1	
80	36	Benson Group	58		1.2	
224	162½	Bersford Ind	126½	- 3	4.4	21.4
105	77	Billam	85		3.5	13.7
662½	376	Bodycote	780	- 5½	1.1	32.4
48	35½	Boots Insts	42½			
29	17	Brassey	24½		4.2	9.8
130	88	Bridon	114½		4.6	14.2
1375½	787	Br Aerospace†	1333½	+ 2	1.5	19.9
207	139½	Br Steel	159	+ ½	1.5	17.3
762	468	Aston	536		0.9	17.0
292	249½	BICC	272½		5.9	
214	141	BSEE	185	- 1	4.1	19.6
171	113	Bassey	170	+ ½	5.0	
142½	93½	Ind Control†	139½		3.6	14.4
386	211	Mallett	287½		5.2	16.0
131	94	Mallett	108½		2.9	
338	245	Melvin-Swt	312	- 3	2.4	18.8
72	19½	Micrnsctr	28½	+ ½	3.9	9.4
348	261	Mitie	335		2.2	21.2
470	236½	Polorr†	407½	+ 4	0.7	
348	229	Racal Elect	264½		2.6	21.2
1154½	78	Radamec	107½		3.0	20.5
469½	316½	Renishaw†	355	- 7	2.7	16.4
8	1¼	Redtrm	2¾			
315	123	Rotork	215	+ 1	3.9	
2335½	160	SDX Bus Sys	214½	- ½	1.3	29.6
427	317	Semcrex	387½		2.8	
92	62	Silverpoints	83		3.6	18.1
4243½	3003½	TDK	4121½	- 65½	0.7	22.5
115	73½	TGI	74		5.7	7.8
172	92½	TLG	120		4.5	13.3
79	39	Tadpole Tech	209			
134	59	Telemetrix	69	- 1	3.0	12.3
370	133	Telspec	197½		3.4	
345	139½	Thorpe Plc	144½	+ 4	3.5	12.2
36	20	Total Systems†	30½		6.1	9.0
388	197½	Tyrecall	217½		2.8	12.5
52½	9½	Vantis	50		3.5	18.8
273	170½	Vero	247½		6.0	12.6
488	383	Volex	425			
36	18½	Wolesborne	12½			
184½	86½	Wessex	174		1.8	50.3

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

562	471½	Acal	491½		2.2	16.1
311	182½	Accm Comp	232½			
414½	163½	Admiral	385		0.8	
218½	134	Anasteel†	188	+ ½	1.8	
98	55½	Anite Gp	87			
55½	33	Arlen	47½		2.4	11.5
164½	110	Astec	149½	+ 1½	1.5	17.3
762	468	Aston	536		0.9	17.0
292	249½	BICC	272½		5.9	
214	141	BSEE	185	- 1	4.1	19.6
171	113	Bassey	170	+ ½	5.0	
142½	93½	Ind Control†	139½		3.6	14.4
386	211	Mallett	287½		5.2	16.0
131	94	Mallett	108½		2.9	
338	245	Melvin-Swt	312	- 3	2.4	18.8
72	19½	Micrnsctr	28½	+ ½	3.9	9.4
348	261	Mitie	335		2.2	21.2
470	236½	Polorr†	407½	+ 4	0.7	
348	229	Racal Elect	264½		2.6	21.2
1154½	78	Radamec	107½		3.0	20.5
469½	316½	Renishaw†	355	- 7	2.7	16.4
8	1¼	Redtrm	2¾			
315	123	Rotork	215	+ 1	3.9	
2335½	160	SDX Bus Sys	214½	- ½	1.3	29.6
427	317	Semcrex	387½		2.8	
92	62	Silverpoints	83		3.6	18.1
4243½	3003½	TDK	4121½	- 65½	0.7	22.5
115	73½	TGI	74		5.7	7.8
172	92½	TLG	120		4.5	13.3
79	39	Tadpole Tech	209			
134	59	Telemetrix	69	- 1	3.0	12.3
370	133	Telspec	197½		3.4	
345	139½	Thorpe Plc	144½	+ 4	3.5	12.2
36	20	Total Systems†	30½		6.1	9.0
388	197½	Tyrecall	217½		2.8	12.5
52½	9½	Vantis	50		3.5	18.8
273	170½	Vero	247½		6.0	12.6
488	383	Volex	425			
36	18½	Wolesborne	12½			
184½	86½	Wessex	174		1.8	50.3

ELECTRICITY

163½	88	Br Energy PP	136	- 1	7.3	
737	479	East Midlands	670		5.9	9.9
570½	478½	Energy Group	483½	- 11½	5.4	9.3
573	565	London Elect	704½	- 3	10.8	7.3
2117½	1615	Midlland Bkd	2114	+ 2	6.5	8.6
1619	1234½	Midlland Pwr	1600	+ 7	6.5	8.6
724	484	Midlland Elec	651		6.4	8.9
456	308	Nthn Ireland	3811½	- 1	6.4	8.9
664	485	Powergen	628½	- 13½	4.5	7.0
372	271½	Hydro-Elect	339½		4.4	8.1
3644	2397½	Scottish Power	339	- 10	6.1	10.1
457	304½	Southern Elec	417½	+ 6	7.0	9.1
910	650	Yorkshire Elect	907½		5.9	12.0

ENGINEERING. VEHICLES

151	108	Advanti	129		7.6	16.2
295	180	Airflow Stream	195		5.1	8.4
757	473	Avon Rubber	749	- 6	3.3	14.5
187	87½	BSG	182		1.4	
352	257½	Bedford	262½		7.3	7.6
29	15	Brownfield	16½		7.5	38.7
787	431	First Tech	683½	- 1	4.0	13.9
1188	778	GKN†	1169½	+ 2	3.3	15.2
2800	2450	General Mtr	2653½	- 100	5.5	
438½

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
For AIB see Govett (John)				
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 563 231				
General Acc	731.60	778.40	- 0.30	2.31
General Inc	606.20	644.90	- 0.30	2.31
UK Growth Acc	506.90	539.30	+ 6.30	2.43
Uk Growth Inc	328.00	349.00	+ 4.00	2.43
Higher Inc Acc	902.40	960.00	+10.80	3.89
Higher Inc Inc	480.70	511.40	+ 5.70	3.89
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	215.40	227.40	- 1.00	5.57
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	92.04	97.21	- 0.41	5.57
Nth America	369.20	392.80	+ 1.40	..
Europe	400.40	426.00	+ 6.30	0.24
Brit Exempt	99.76	106.20	..	2.54
Brit Fndmtls Acc	127.20	135.40	- 0.20	4.57
Brit Fndmtls Inc	83.63	89.28	- 0.16	4.57
Global Opps	109.50	112.30	- 0.80	..
Balanced Acc	67.04	71.32	- 0.23	2.45
Balanced Inc	62.59	66.59	- 0.21	2.45
Japan Acc	37.91	40.34	+ 0.35	..
Pac Basin Acc	397.30	422.70	+ 3.60	0.57
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	132.10	140.20†	- 0.40	6.78
High Inc Equity	199.30	213.30	- 0.20	4.46
Worldwide Bond	271.00	287.30†	- 0.50	4.18
American Growth	429.50	456.10	+ 4.20	0.05
Asian Pacific	356.20	378.50	- 1.60	0.35
Assets & Earnings	226.20	240.90	- 2.00	2.71
Euro Capital Acc	226.10	239.40	- 1.70	0.72
Extra Inc	42.61	45.54†	- 0.04	6.04
General	263.80	312.50†	- 1.10	3.80
Global Opps	75.10	79.90	- 0.64	0.56
Japan	80.55	85.78	+ 0.35	..
Managed Inc	49.05	52.62†	- 0.05	4.26
Managed Acc	177.50	188.80	- 1.00	1.26
US Emerging Cos	185.70	197.60	- 1.40	..
Ethical	89.65	95.37	- 0.66	1.65
International	141.20	150.20	- 0.80	0.98
Dividend & Growth	73.51	78.20	+ 0.07	4.20
Global Gwth & Inc	74.96	80.16	- 0.62	2.52
Latin America	62.22	67.47	- 0.55	0.45
Capital Reserve	148.10	149.20	..	4.60
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				
HALF UK Growth	98.38	104.60	- 0.09	2.30
Equity Income	138.60	147.40	..	4.11
Extra Income	267.40	284.40	- 0.20	6.36
Smaller Cos	116.40	123.80†	..	1.45
International	118.90	126.40	- 0.20	1.36
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
Uk Small Cos	2512.00	2713.00	..	..
ASTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 980				
Amer Inc & Growth	85.53	87.99	- 0.73	..
Emerging Mkts	80.51	83.85	- 0.51	0.04
European	165.10	171.60†	- 0.70	..
Extra Income #	52.19	54.93†	- 0.24	5.92
Far East Emg Eco	130.70	137.10	- 1.30	0.46
Fixed Interest #	28.69	27.66†	- 0.10	6.78
Fxnd Inv Tst #	172.00	180.50	- 0.90	9.20
Japan	153.40	159.40	- 1.10	..
Latin American	79.29	75.13	- 0.47	0.65
Pacific	81.18	85.22	- 0.78	0.31
Property Share	82.30	86.41	- 0.62	2.03
Uk Emerging Cos	72.43	79.56	- 0.57	1.21
UK Growth	66.28	69.90	- 0.47	2.67
Aber World Port #	87.32	89.25	- 0.41	2.79
Ethical	82.40	85.69	- 0.59	2.06
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.16	50.23†	- 0.04	7.98
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5868				
Restfl Property #	99.36	105.70†	..	5.37
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amlty Income	98.06	104.03†	- 0.25	1.94
Income Builder Inc	87.08	92.64	+ 0.06	3.78
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC				
IFA dlg: 01793 610 365 Client dlg: 01793 514 514				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	311.20	332.60	- 1.30	2.79
Capital	307.30	326.70	- 1.80	1.06
Balanced	801.20	963.30	- 3.30	2.53
Accumulator	1742.00	1862.00	- 6.00	1.68
Income Trusts				
American Income	72.43	77.220†	- 0.95	2.07
High Income	494.60	528.10†	- 2.20	4.04
Equity Income	280.00	298.90	- 1.40	3.72
High Yield	304.00	324.70	- 1.10	3.70
Govt Securities	34.91	36.860	- 0.20	5.92
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	247.00	263.40†	- 4.60	0.04
European Growth	61.28	65.500†	- 0.57	0.06
International	195.10	208.50†	- 1.60	0.11
Japan	158.10	169.00	- 1.30	..
Pacific	206.50	223.30	- 1.90	..
Secs of America	645.00	686.90	- 09.50	0.11
Welldn Asset Val	57.52	61.480†	- 0.44	0.02
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	699.60	747.80	- 2.30	1.83
Cons & Gilt	53.71	57.410†	- 0.20	3.69
Smaller Cos	227.50	237.80	- 0.60	0.56
2nd Smaller Cos	218.80	225.30†	- 0.60	0.62
Recovery	182.30	194.80	- 0.90	1.45
Met Min & Gdly	171.00	182.70	- 1.90	0.17
Overs Earnings	493.70	492.60†	- 1.50	0.96
Technology	218.50	233.50	- 3.30	..
Uk Special Sits	635.50	679.30†	- 1.20	0.82
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01283 526 911				
Cnlicdd Our Pens	126.30	130.10	..	0
Foresfin Pens Pens	74.04	78.92	..	..
BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST. MGRS LTD				
0171 600 0033				
Capital	93.21	98.16	- 0.20	0.76
International	71.70	76.28	- 1.21	..
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
America	365.50	390.30	+ 5.80	..
Bond	119.60	125.80	- 0.50	6.51
Bd Stnlr Cos	122.40	130.20	..	1.73
Cmnr & Gen #	70.81	75.33†	+ 0.11	5.12
Europe	311.10	330.40	..	0.70
Euro Smlr Cos	130.40	138.60	- 1.10	0.30
Income Gwth	404.80	430.10†	+ 0.10	4.55
Japan	268.30	283.00	- 0.80	..
Latin American	104.70	111.40	- 0.30	0.57
Pacific	119.20	126.80	- 0.60	0.51
UK Smaller Cos	68.58	64.95	+ 0.15	1.23
Japan Fd	516.70	536.30†	- 2.90	..
Mngd Fd	216.00	228.40	- 0.60	2.63
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 499 8873				
Bnl & Ossns	415.60	439.60	..	0.81
Capital Gwth	146.00	154.50	..	2.78
Worldo Oppo	244.70	256.80	..	0.63
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD				
01481 722 4000				
Balanced Trusts				
Gwth & Inc Inc	466.50	496.30	- 1.50	1.97
European Bd Inc	97.68	101.10	- 0.40	5.98
Exempt	91.75	97.61	- 0.23	2.46
500	534.20	574.50†	- 1.60	1.98
General	353.10	375.80†	- 0.90	2.04
Property	256.90	275.60	..	4.87
Trustee	249.30	265.20	- 0.60	2.15
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.90	100.90	..	5.33
Distribution ⊕#	119.00	119.80	- 0.20	5.89
Extra Income #	151.60	161.80	- 0.50	4.31
Gilt & Fxd Int	59.35	61.18‡	- 0.13	7.66
Income #	537.30	570.80	- 1.40	4.29
Income Builder #	73.62	78.41†	- 0.15	5.02
Intl Income	78.95	81.86	- 0.23	1.93
Growth Trusts - Uk				
Capital	155.50	165.40†	- 0.40	1.75
FTSE 100	111.50	119.30	- 0.30	2.43
Leisure	188.40	200.90	+ 0.10	1.06
Recovery	543.30	579.50	- 0.60	2.13
Smlr Cos Inc	63.03	67.23	- 0.22	2.06
Special Sits	447.30	475.70	- 0.90	1.75
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	197.00	208.50	- 1.50	0.26
F East Gwth Acc	303.30	322.60	- 0.40	0.10
Far East Gwth	179.80	191.40	- 0.20	0.10
Far East Inc	139.60	148.60	- 0.70	0.10
Japan	158.10	168.00	- 1.30	..
Pacific	206.50	223.30	- 1.90	..
Secs of America	645.00	686.90	- 09.50	0.11
Welldn Asset Val	57.52	61.480†	- 0.44	0.02
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	699.60	747.80	- 2.30	1.83
Cons & Gilt	53.71	57.410†	- 0.20	3.69
Smaller Cos	227.50	237.80	- 0.60	0.56
2nd Smaller Cos	218.80	225.30†	- 0.60	0.62
Recovery	182.30	194.80	- 0.90	1.45
Met Min & Gdly	171.00	182.70	- 1.90	0.17
Overs Earnings	493.70	492.60†	- 1.50	0.96
Technology	218.50	233.50	- 3.30	..
Uk Special Sits	635.50	679.30†	- 1.20	0.82
BARING FUND MANGERS LTD				
01771 214 1004				
American Growth	149.10	157.40	- 2.00	..
Amer Smlr Cos	139.50	149.90	- 2.00	..
Convertibles	81.79	85.95‡	- 0.36	4.43
Eastern	293.70	315.20	- 2.70	0.30
Equity Income #	108.60	115.40	- 0.10	4.10
European Growth	457.00	483.20	- 3.00	0.83
Europe	413.80	440.70	- 4.90	0.60
German Growth	96.51	102.20	+ 0.30	0.50
Global Bond	71.43	75.14	- 0.32	6.39
Global Growth	160.90	169.80	- 1.30	0.40
Japan Growth	169.80	179.50	- 1.10	..
Japan Smaller	112.70	119.60	- 0.70	..
Korea Trust	46.44	50.22	- 1.19	..
Portfolio	156.60	167.20‡	- 0.90	2.00
Pacific	228.20	239.10	- 1.20	0.00
Uk Growth	118.30	126.90	- 0.80	3.00
Uk Smaller Cos	108.60	117.90	- 1.10	1.90
Select Managers	94.00	100.80	..	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 259 3000				
Intl Gwth Post Inc	96.13	102.30	..	..
Special Opper Inc	69.37	73.80‡	..	..
BRITANNIA FUND MNGRS LTD				
0141 223 6020				
Balanced Growth	158.61	168.05	- 0.35	1.36
-do- Accum	184.65	195.61	- 0.41	1.36
Smaller Cos	172.26	182.29	- 5.73	0.41
Higher Yield #	91.84	96.44	- 0.24	3.91
American Gth Inc	113.06	119.66‡	- 2.32	..
European Growth	179.59	190.04‡	- 0.51	0.09
-do- Accum	183.38	194.05	- 0.52	0.09
Mngd Portfo Inc	52.76	55.57‡	- 0.25	1.21
-do- Accum	59.74	63.19	- 0.28	1.21
Int Spec Opps	183.11	193.77	- 0.57	..
Pacific Gwth	162.00	171.42	- 1.65	..
Uk General #	106.70	112.91	- 0.35	2.91
-do- Accum #	115.78	122.51	- 0.38	2.91
Japan	45.23	47.87	+ 0.06	..
Gilt & Fixed Int #	101.58	105.26‡	- 0.19	8.20
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7218				
Short Dated Gilt	94.19	85.01‡	- 0.01	6.62
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 6060				
Emerton	200.80	211.40	- 0.60	1.77
UK Growth	230.10	242.20†	- 0.50	2.07
UK Income	162.00	170.60	- 0.20	4.07
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 822 100				
Can Gen Dist	248.70	263.50	- 0.80	1.50
-do- Income Dist	136.80	144.90	+ 3.40	3.44
-do- Accum	447.70	474.40	- 1.20	3.45
Gilt & Fxd Int	40.79	43.06‡	- 0.21	6.35
Growth Units	280.60	299.90	- 0.30	1.86
Bond	176.70	185.90‡	- 0.50	6.80
Intl Growth	241.70	257.50	- 1.50	0.18
North American	262.20	280.80	- 4.00	0.08
Far East	319.80	341.20	- 3.10	0.57
UK Smaller Cos	254.30	272.00	- 1.00	1.05
European	162.60	169.00	- 0.50	0.40
Japanese Growth	36.51	38.70‡	- 0.11	..
High Income	236.90	253.00‡	- 0.60	4.02
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American & Gen	232.60	251.80‡	- 4.40	..
European Inc	108.00	112.40	- 0.80	0.22
Smaller Cos (4-1)	118.20	125.80‡	- 1.10	1.55
Growth	602.20	649.00‡	- 2.50	1.36
Income & Growth #	503.50	535.70	- 0.30	3.46
-do- Accum #	771.90	821.20	- 0.60	3.46
Japan & Geo	52.94	56.23‡	- 0.40	..
Hallmark Gwth	213.12	219.72	- 0.60	1.70
-do- Accum	616.30	617.80	- 1.70	1.70
Special Sits	136.40	141.30	- 0.40	1.93
High Yield	116.26	116.77	- 1.00	3.94
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	109.73	115.94	- 0.35	2.10
American Portfolio	134.76	143.62	- 1.38	0.99
European Portfolio	151.03	160.74	- 1.45	0.56
High Income	92.56	92.69	- 0.27	7.15
Japanese Portfolio	54.14	57.42†	- 0.03	..

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Pacific Portfolio	164.63	177.24	- 1.05	0.74
UK Equity	105.66	112.74	- 0.21	3.12
UK Equity & Bd	61.28	64.99†	- 0.27	6.12
UK Smlr Cos	55.89	59.54‡	- 0.32	1.56
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	838.86	891.54	..	4.04
Fxd Int Sec	158.40	159.04	..	8.99
CDF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	832.43	845.01	..	4.07
Investment Acc	838.86	891.45	..	..
Fixed Int Inc	240.43	244.41	..	8.84
Fixed Int Acc	240.43	244.41	..	..
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5566				
Beckman Intl	88.47	93.35	- 0.71	5.37
Brck Blk-Tech	45.36	49.29	..	..
Accm Ethical Tst	192.70	202.50	..	0.42
City Fin Assets	85.08	89.34	..	1.73
City Fin Recvry	91.45	96.05	- 1.42	0.13
Dlfy Fin Intl	332.96	354.21	..	2.24
Friars Hse Cap	143.31	151.91†	- 1.79	..
Buckley Wrld Gdth	61.57	64.76	..	3.21
J Sbl Inc/Cllb Inc	85.78	87.22	+ 0.02	6.58
Shaw Lbdrkss				
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	80.71	84.41†	- 0.40	..
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	83.34	88.86	- 0.82	..
Dragon Gwth	72.85	77.91	- 0.68	0.37
Equity High Inc	98.94	105.98†	- 0.10	3.63
-do- Accum	145.05	155.39	- 0.14	3.63
Extra Income Inc	27.13	28.57	- 0.05	7.08
Extra Income Acc	30.28	31.89	- 0.05	7.08
European Gwth	69.20	73.42	- 0.07	0.45
Evergreen	32.17	34.48	- 0.11	..
General Equity	115.72	122.78	+ 0.26	2.58
Japan Growth	37.68	40.09	+ 0.03	..
Pelngtn Gwth	68.52	74.43	+ 0.02	2.07
Pref Sec Cos Inc	41.17	44.27	- 0.19	1.06
-do- Accum	43.90	47.20	- 0.20	1.06
Retirement Inc #	30.14	32.10	- 0.03	5.58
Special Sits	50.84	54.67	- 0.01	2.53
UK & Overseas	63.74	67.63	- 0.19	0.60
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01534 858 000				
Balanced	74.77	77.86†	+ 0.07	3.88
Capital	90.49	94.26†	+ 0.10	2.43
High Income	52.98	55.18†	- 0.14	6.54
Top 50	61.84	64.41†	+ 0.02	2.38
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds:				
Equity Inc	209.75	216.51	- 0.78	4.20
Long Gilt	44.31	45.14	- 0.27	6.18
Monthly Inc Plus	51.83	53.99	- 0.26	6.30
Preference Shares	49.48	51.55	- 0.38	7.56
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	152.34	158.70	- 0.88	5.36
Managed Fund	80.65	84.02	- 0.28	2.64
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	58.12	61.59	+ 1.55	1.54
-do- Accum	69.87	72.79	+ 1.83	1.54
UK & General	107.35	111.83	- 0.32	2.76
-do- Accum	141.35	147.15	- 0.41	2.76
UK Growth	216.46	225.50	- 0.91	1.25
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	232.63	242.35	- 0.33	0.60
Far Eastern Gth	128.00	134.39	- 0.97	0.02
Global Bond	76.13	79.31	- 0.38	6.25
Japan Growth	63.36	67.28	- 0.15	..
Manlu Amer Gth	267.70	276.88	- 3.78	..
Oriental Growth	85.62	89.20	- 0.72	0.26
Worldwide Growth	76.76	79.45	- 0.52	..
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	93.22	93.22	+ 0.01	5.30
Homemaker Fund	95.32	101.42†	- 0.13	2.13
Quilter Fund	166.65	177.31†	- 0.40	2.03
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 407 5566				
Consistent UT	38.30	40.52†	..	3.86
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 356				
Growth	197.80	210.40	+ 0.20	1.32
Income	76.72	81.62‡	+ 0.06	4.27
European	81.37	86.56	- 0.23	0.30
Recovery	180.70	202.90†	- 0.10	2.41
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 283 9494				
Equity Dist	1877.60	1993.80	..	3.14
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 696 370				
Fellowship Tst	119.30	126.90†	- 0.30	1.08
Income #	306.80	326.30	- 0.40	4.25
-do- Accm #	818.90	871.10	- 1.30	4.25
Smaller Cos	249.00	264.80	- 1.20	0.90
-do- Accum	310.20	330.00	- 1.40	0.90
Pan Portfolio	167.90	114.70†	- 0.30	1.24
High Inc Port #	89.10	94.78†	- 0.09	4.11
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 470 1634				
Global Sm Cos	1739.80	1774.30†	..	..
Uk Small Cos	2371.50	2464.90	..	2.56
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8619				
Disc Inc	250.60	262.60	..	3.14
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD				
01242 577 895				
UK Balanced Inc	187.50	199.40	..	1.82
UK High Inc Inc	185.40	207.80	..	3.43
-do- Accum	267.90	284.90	..	3.43
UK Pref & F I Inc	80.30	84.01	..	5.78
Emergent Opps	110.80	117.60	..	0.85
Int Smlr Cos #	78.80	83.65‡	..	0.85
Extra Income Inc	50.44	53.65†	..	6.29
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 505				
Convertibles #	23.65	25.14†	- 0.02	5.57
Enterprise	115.30	122.20	- 0.10	2.05
Equity Income #	151.20	160.70†	+ 0.30	3.73
European	69.54	73.56	- 0.38	0.54
Financial	63.61	67.65	- 0.37	1.53
Growth & Inc #	328.10	327.40†	- 0.40	2.67
High Dist #	191.20	203.20	+ 0.20	4.18
International	443.20	470.90	- 3.70	0.11
Inc Cap Inc	112.20	119.80	- 0.70	2.25
Latin American	36.80	39.10	- 0.48	..
Pacific	85.50	90.90	- 0.95	..
Prof High Inc	23.14	24.59	- 0.07	7.32
Tokyo	178.70	189.20	- 1.30	..
UK Smaller Cos	254.50	261.00	- 1.10	1.07
Dunedin Unit Trusts				
Jap Smlr Co	304.50	323.30	- 2.80	..
Nth Amer	478.80	507.40	- 4.50	0.56
UK Inc & Gth	273.80	292.00	- 0.40	2.54
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 8242				
Bfit Director Dlgs	131.54	140.68	+ 2.26	1.00
Growth Acc	287.36	306.31	+ 4.91	0.63
Income	834.65	675.90†	+ 0.17	5.88
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	239.70	255.00	..	0.79
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01256 481 480				
European	100.01	105.27	- 0.37	1.57
Ethical Tst	48.45	51.00	- 0.63	0.86
Far Eastern	300.87	316.70	- 3.31	1.45
High Income	153.02	161.07	- 0.64	4.59
UK Index Tracking	56.88	59.82†	- 0.36	3.80
Intl Growth	152.53	160.56†	- 0.45	0.70
North American	162.63	171.19	- 1.09	1.75
Pelican	156.90	165.16	- 0.85	2.89
Smaller Cos	77.49	81.56	- 0.29	2.70
Special Sits	99.54	104.78	- 0.43	2.77
Tst of Inv Tsts	231.10	243.26†	- 0.82	1.27
For Evermore see Laurence Keen				
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	108.51	116.35	- 1.68	..
Fd of Inv Tsts	56.87	60.45	- 0.18	0.48
High Income #	42.51	45.67	- 0.23	10.95
Mlamart	69.36	53.65‡	- 0.42	..
Zero Preference	45.99	48.80	- 0.07	..
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 239 707				
Family Asset Tst	103.80	110.40	- 0.20	2.20
United Charities	345.50	367.50	- 2.00	2.00
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callines: Private Clients: 0800 414 181				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00	..	5.60
Bond Funds				
Intl Bond	27.12	28.12	- 0.15	5.20
Strategic Inc	37.67	28.92‡	- 0.05	5.67
Income Funds				
High Income	28.01	29.39‡	- 0.03	5.24
Income Plus	143.30	152.40‡	- 0.10	3.93
European Income	54.56	57.99‡	- 0.22	2.34
Uk Div Gilt	34.53	36.72‡	+ 0.03	2.28
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	63.98	67.18	- 0.16	..
American	352.10	370.40	- 8.70	..
Amer Spec Sits	189.20	202.40	- 3.00	..
Japan Smaller Cos	23.51	25.00‡	- 0.23	..
European	260.10	276.60	- 0.20	0.49
European Opps	91.99	97.02	- 0.46	0.02
Global Prp	35.75	38.02	- 0.17	0.79
Uk Growth	135.10	143.70	- 0.10	1.26
Growth & Inc	197.30	209.80	+ 0.10	2.21
Intl Pfd	52.51	53.84	- 0.29	0.98
Japan Spec Sits	66.57	70.80	- 0.44	..
Japan	151.40	160.50	- 1.40	..
Managed Int	378.60	402.50†	- 4.20	0.46
Moneybuilder	69.54	73.94	- 0.28	..
Recovery	67.12	71.37†	- 0.31	1.51
South E Asia	190.10	202.80	- 2.00	0.95
Special Sits	808.70	859.90	- 1.90	0.51
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	118.31	118.31	+ 0.02	5.60
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	159.70	162.30†	- 3.40	1.61
Finsbury Pri Inc #	101.50	102.30†	..	0.07
Cap Public	172.50	174.10	- 0.80	0.45
Special Opps	152.90	154.30	- 2.30	3.25
Growth Inc	40.47	40.84	- 0.05	1.85
Private Portfolio	517.90	525.60†	-10.50	1.14
FORBISH & COLOMAL UNIT MGT				
Dlg 01277 696 366 Acamn/Wd 01277 660 350				
Euro Smlr Cos	181.60	171.80†	+ 0.50	0.17
High Income	92.90	24.35‡	+ 0.03	9.24
Japan Smlr Cos	14.36	15.40	..	..
US Smaller Cos	445.00	473.90	- 2.40	..
For Foster & Braithwaite see Quilter				
FRANLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0171 330 6500 Dealing: 0345 775611				
American Growth	83.45	88.78‡	- 1.22	..
-do- Accum	103.45	110.70‡	- 1.25	..
Amer Smlr Cos	654.40	699.90	- 9.40	..
-do- Accum	668.60	715.10	- 9.60	..
Capital Tst	428.80	456.20†	- 1.10	1.09
-do- Accum	633.30	673.70‡	- 1.70	1.09
Cont Smlr Cos	84.79	89.15	- 0.63	1.31
-do- Accum	98.93	73.57	- 0.86	1.31
Convertible	142.60	157.00	- 0.90	5.10
-do- Accum	327.00	347.90	- 1.90	5.10
Emerging Markets	70.42	75.24	- 0.84	0.30
-do- Accum	70.88	75.63	- 0.85	0.30
European	164.60	174.70	- 0.40	0.50
-do- Accum	174.60	185.10	- 0.50	0.50
Extra Income	419.90	446.70	- 1.40	4.45
-do- Accum	677.10	720.30	- 2.30	4.45
Financial	198.60	211.30	- 1.00	0.48
-do- Accum	211.00	224.50	- 1.10	0.48
Gilt Trust	84.39	88.40	- 0.22	6.65
-do- Accum	100.10	103.30	- 0.30	6.65
Hkoch Fund Inc	271.80	290.40	- 3.80	..

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	271.60	290.40	- 3.80	..
Income & Growth	244.70	260.30	- 0.70	3.95
-do- Accum	395.30	420.50	- 1.10	3.95
Intl Growth	430.10	462.20	- 3.60	..
-do- Accum	480.90	513.20	-

Amanda Roberts introduces a five-page report on the refreshment vending industry

Poised for growth in an age of uncertainty

To most people, automatic vending means nothing more than a machine in the corner, dispensing drinks or snacks. In fact, that machine is in the front line of a rapidly developing industry: Britain's 330,000* vending machines bring in more than £1 billion in revenue per annum.

They offer British workers an ever wider range of refreshments — from a cup of coffee to a freshly fried portion of chips. And they offer British managements a cost-effective way of keeping their staff fed and watered.

The industry, which meets in Manchester next month for Avex '97, its trade show, was hit hard by the recession but is enjoying steady growth in the 1990s — 4 per cent a year, according to the latest figures.



Ingram: challenge

David Ingram is chairman of its trade association, the Automatic Vending Association of Britain (AVAB). "Vending is *still a relatively* young industry," he says, "but it is developing into a *mature state and over the past five* years it has really started to take itself very seriously. It's a good job, too, because we are facing all sorts of issues such as legislation on packaging waste, water quality, machine hygiene, changes to the coinage and aspects of taxation.

"Everyone involved in the industry will have to apply themselves to these issues and live up to any requirements laid down in order to survive and continue to serve our customers.

"The biggest challenge we face is how we're going to cope with a single European currency as and when it happens. It will cost millions if we don't get it right. We don't know how the currency change will affect the country, and because vending is a coin-led industry, the quality of the coinage is vital.

"The mint masters throughout Europe work to different standards. Any variation in the coins produced will cause great problems. The AVAB has been involved in discussions with the UK Mint and has participated in discussions on a European level, but everything is still in the embryo stage."

Members of the AVAB should be ready to face these challenges since the association has set up several committees to monitor key issues, produce codes of practice and keep members informed of developments. The AVAB does not represent the whole industry, but it has some 300 members, made up of manufacturers, components and commodity suppliers and vending operators. The membership includes the top 125 operating companies — those which provide the vending service to a site, including cleaning and refilling machines.

It is estimated that there are 200 much smaller companies in the UK which are outside AVAB membership, and the association is trying hard to recruit them.

Three years ago, any attempt to report on the size of the industry relied heavily on guesswork: there were no statistics available. The AVAB recognised that if the industry was to contribute effectively to the decision-making process on issues vital to its future, it needed to be able to quantify itself. Without meaningful statistics, this was virtually impossible.

The association devised a means of gathering information from its members without revealing a company's market share and sales. It appointed a City law firm, Vizards, to administer and audit the information to ensure this confidentiality. The result was the publication of the first Vend Inform Census in autumn 1994. The third edition of this annual survey was published in October last year.

The census has revealed trends within some sectors of the market. For instance, the figures published in October 1996 show major year-on-year growth in the number of machines selling cold beverages in cans, cartons or bottles (5.5 per cent) and the number of machines selling snacks — such as bags of crisps and bars of chocolate — and food (8.9 per cent).

Other significant patterns to have emerged include the growth of *smaller "table top" machines serving freshly brewed beverages as* opposed to those made from instant ingredients, and the growth of card-based or cashless payment systems.

"When we introduced industry training schemes to qualify our engineers and operators to NVQ level, we sought government subsidies," Mr Ingram says. "We were asked two questions — how many machines do you service and how many people are involved. At the time we didn't have the answers to either. We now know how many machines we have on sites in the UK, but we still don't know how many people are employed. This is a step for the future."

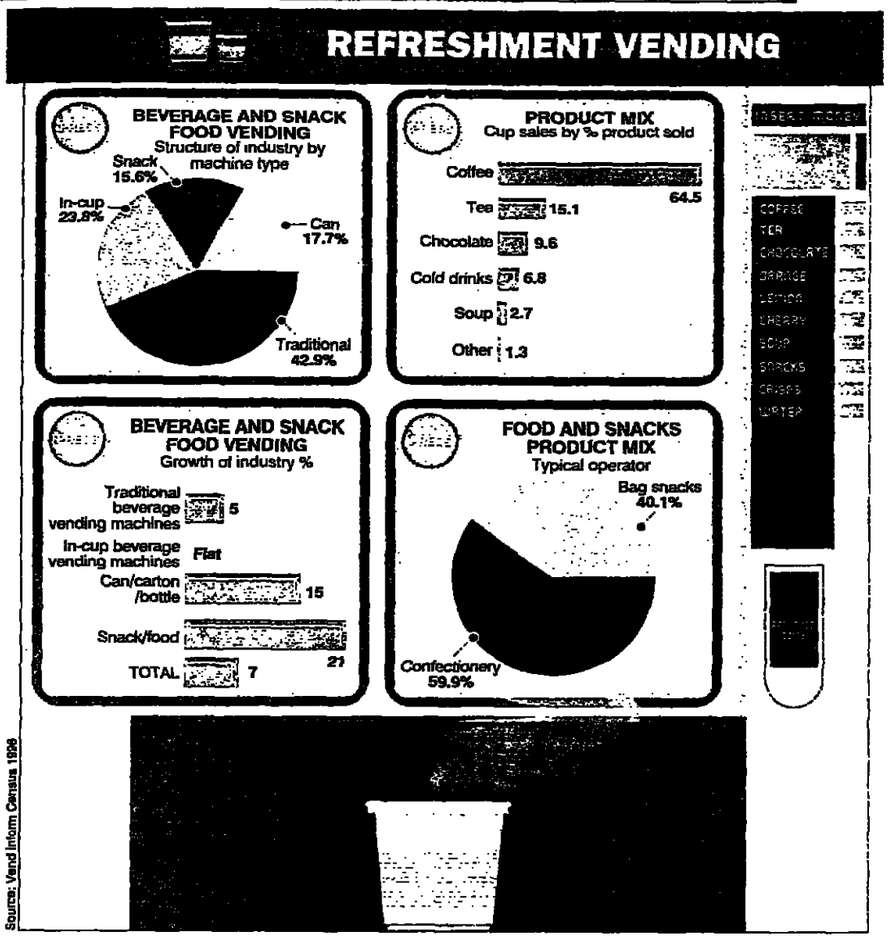
The need for vending services is growing as industry and commerce continue to identify areas where cutbacks can be made, he says. "There is an increasing demand to contract out activities which are not core to a company's business and to replace staffed catering with a vending service.

"Working hours are also changing and more people want a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week service. Most importantly, fast response times for breakdowns are demanded and need to be addressed

"There is also an emerging demand for the vending industry to get more involved in automatic retailing — for instance in shopping malls, where facilities for distress purchases can be catered for via a bank of vending machines."

** Figures do not include the 150,000 cigarette vending machines estimated to be on sites throughout the UK.*

The author is editor of AutoVending *magazine.*



From candyfloss to cameras

There is very little that cannot be sold from a vending machine

ONCE it was just drinks and snacks. Now there seems no limit as to what can be sold from a machine, *writes Amanda Roberts.*

Disposable flower vases are *being sold for £1 each in some* hospitals. The product was designed by a regular hospital *visitor and the vending machine* has proved the ideal vehicle to sell it in. This has a double benefit — it overcomes the shortage of vases and saves the nurses a lot of washing-up.

Enthusiastic fishermen may already be familiar with the maggot vending machine. Supplied by a company called Mag-it, which also breeds the maggots, the machine vends worms and maggots as fish bait in tins. The live bait is kept at a carefully controlled temperature — too cold and it would freeze and die, too warm and the maggots would develop.

Most machines are sited on garage forecourts but Mag-it will consider any requests for machines. Some are sited outside pet shops and *owners of exotic* pets use them to buy food. In the *Norfolk Broads*, many machines are outside pubs.

> 'Fishermen have the maggot machine...'

The vending machine has even been used to sell *works of art. A glass-fronted* snacks vendor was filled with pieces of fake wood inscribed *with a poem as part of an art* installation at Staffordshire University. These artistic bundles were sold for £2 each.

Hot and cold food is becoming commonplace, but at an exhibition in Paris last year, snacking initiatives were dominated by popcorn and candyfloss. Hot food options include burgers, lasagna, pitta and chips — cooked within the machine and served piping hot, with a choice of salt, ketchup or mayonnaise.

Reading glasses and sunglasses have been sold through glass-fronted snack merchandisers. Video clubs have been run totally automatically through machines with cards issued to members, which control everything from age-restricted rentals to pricing. Films and single use cameras are also vended — and *some even have a returns system* for the film to be taken away and developed.

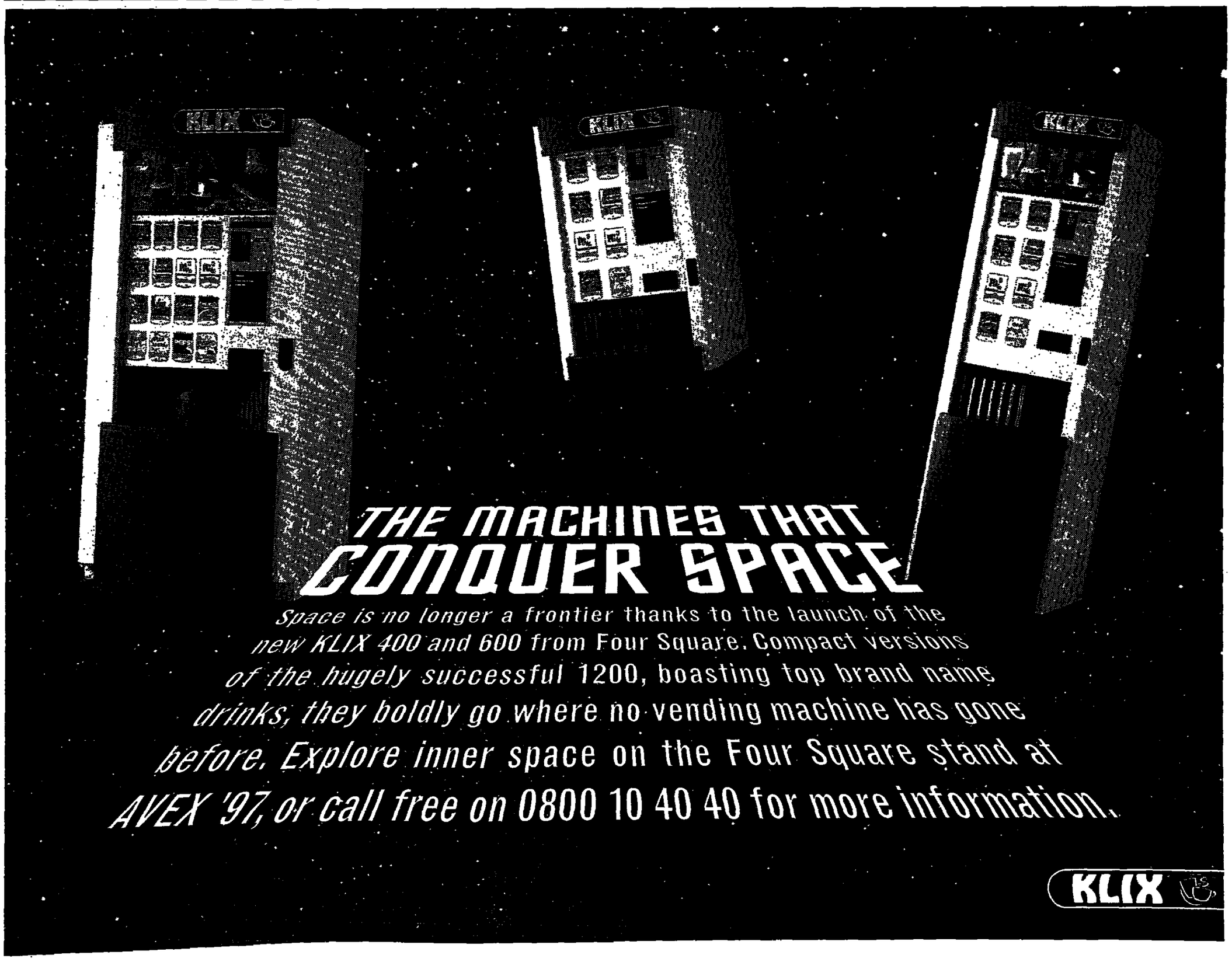
*How about an entirely auto*matic store? Seventy of these have already been supplied to sites throughout Europe and the concept is set to be launched in the UK next month. It will vend anything from eggs to fresh fruit, cleaning products to cigarettes.

Since its inception, the vending machine has been placed in some strange places and has been used to sell some unusual products. In Japan, machines vending all sorts of goods and goodies are to be found on almost every street corner, the floor of every department store (including the roof), every park (including that for the Imperial Palace) and every boardroom, where something a little stronger than water is often sold.

The machines themselves can be *found in some odd* spots. A garden centre in the *North of England*, for example, made a feature of its *vending machine, installing it* inside an old red telephone box.

A disused machine abandoned *in a Buckinghamshire* field prompted some curious glances recently from those too young to remember anything like it. It had stood outside a farm (long since converted into a domestic property) and had vended eggs by the half dozen.

Once, before vandalism became rife, it was common to see vending machines outside shops. Now they may be about to return to the high street. Mars confectionery will soon be available from 15ft "vending columns" in city centres. Each of these giant machines will hold 800 bars — quite a change from the old gobstopper dispenser.



Brands that came out of the vending closet

Amanda Roberts on the growth of big names on drinks machines

Brands sell products. Retailers and product manufacturers worldwide are well aware of the power of the brand and that by advertising where a big brand is on offer, sales can be significantly increased. Vending, which is in many ways an extension of the retail industry, was slow to wake up to the potential of big brands, but once it did, progress was rapid.

Just a few years ago, most machines would feature a generic and often fairly insipid fascia panel with some sort of design, on a boring brown, grey or white cabinet machine. Today, machines are fully branded to promote the product on sale. The branding can cover the machine or be limited to a single panel or "decal" (ie, the sticker by the selection panel that tells the user what particular brand of coffee or tea he is selecting). The vending machine is essentially one huge advertising panel.



Vending machines are now advertising opportunities

The soft drinks manufacturers were the first to recognise the potential of branding machines and eventually, the rest of the industry started to follow suit. Nestle introduced a series of beverage machines which were branded top to toe with the retail style packaging of its Nescafe brand. Kraft Jacobs Suchard have done the same, featuring the red Kenco coffee jar. Cadbury brands up its confectionary machines: Premier Beverages promotes its Typhoo Tea; and McCain's has built on the strength of its name in frozen chips to brand up the new chip vendor, which serves a chip specially developed to vend.

Development of branded vending in sectors other than the canned soft drinks was slow largely due to the reticence of brand owners to put their names to machines over which they had no control and which may be serving a poor product. It is an indication of how quality has improved in the market and how perception of vending has changed that brand owners are now quite happy to put their names to, and promote, the product dispensed.

Branding does work for vending. It gains the confidence of the consumer that the product which will be dispensed is one which they recognise and with which they associate a certain quality. It builds loyalty with the consumer and increases sales. Premier Beverages, which supplies Cadbury's branded hot chocolate drinks to the vending industry, conducted a case study at a busy site in Warrington where the catering manager had decided to replace the existing non-branded hot chocolate drink with Cadbury's. In three weeks, chocolate sales rose 20 per cent, settling to an overall 15 per cent increase in sales over six months.

The industry keeps pushing the branding concept into new areas. Springbank Industries is a supplier of vending services which has developed a series of branding concepts geared to different market sectors. Suites of machines are supplied in a fully integrated system with the company's own Gold Choices brand featuring throughout.

Now market activity revolves around creating more eye-catching ways of promoting brands on machines. State-of-the-art technology creates 3D and moving images, and sophisticated printing techniques improve definition, graphics and colour.

Gone are the days when the vending machine sat quietly in the corner — now it shouts about its presence, loudly!

From holy water to hot soup

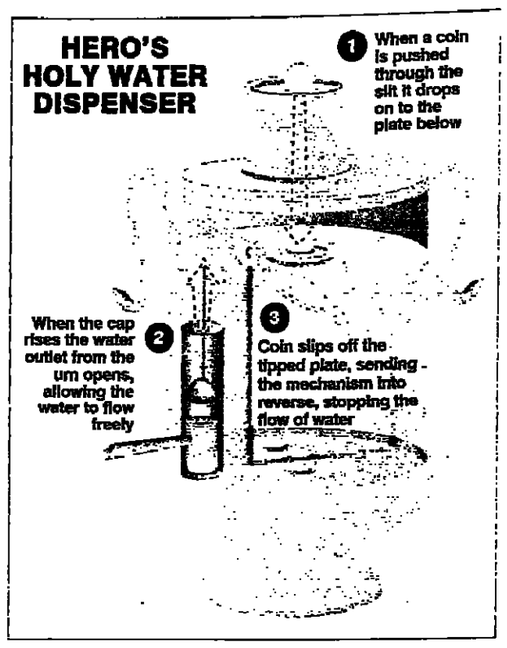
Colin Emmins traces the history of coin-in-the-slot food and drink

HERO of Alexandria designed the first known coin-operated vending machine, dispensing holy water from a covered urn, in 215BC. How much water the worshipper received was a matter of chance and Hero's idea lay dormant for 2,000 years.

Automatic refreshment machines appeared next in Britain in Victorian times, when original patents included a coin-operated drinks dispenser and a mechanism for delivering biscuits and water.

Most early machines, however, supplied packets of chocolate and, later, chewing gum on the column-and-drawer principle still in use. The vending machine soon established itself at railway stations and spread to the high street, where refreshment could be obtained from outdoor machines when shops were shut. By 1939 most people were accustomed to coin-operated refreshment but the Second World War halted operations as manufacturers were diverted to war work and confectionery was rationed.

When vending resumed in Britain after 1945, more versatile American machines became available, offering greater choice of foods: sandwiches, crisps and other packaged snacks. Vending liquid refreshment also became more common. Machines vending packaged milk were popular during the Fifties, although inflation later halted the trade since the law decreed that milk be sold in standard



quantities and technology had yet to allow for multi-coin vending.

In the Fifties, too, American hot-drink vending came to Britain. Electricity powered the new machines, heating the water and providing smoother activation of the coin mechanism. The hot drinks were made with powders. Powdered tea posed initial problems but soluble tea, coffee and milk eventually proved more acceptable.

Electrical power also enabled coin-operated machines to sell chilled drinks. For this purpose soft drinks were prepared in advance in a sealed container which the vending machine had only to chill before dispensing. A second method involved mixing a concentrate with chilled, fizzy water inside the machine for dispensing when required.

Other machines pioneered in America sold chilled, bottled soft drinks and, later, cans.

Annual sales of machines supplying snack foods and drinks doubled between 1965 and 1970 as the vending machine superseded the tea trolley in the workplace. Further technology enabled hot and cold drinks to be served from the same machine. By 1970 more than 100,000 vending machines were said to be installed in firms throughout the UK, sales of hot drinks alone totalling about £47 million.

Later, the in-cup vending system let the supplier fill individual cups with dry ingredients and stack and seal them before despatch to the vending site, with water added on site to dissolve the ingredients and provide the drink required.

The early Seventies confronted the industry with two major changes — decimal currency and value added tax. Decimalisation demanded adjustment of equipment to handle the new coinage; value added tax required fine price adjustments. The necessary changes encouraged makers to embrace the electronic revolution by installing additional features which the microprocessor could offer.

A new breed of vending machine offered more choice, more accurate detection of false coins and more flexible pricing. Refreshment machines went into more sites — leisure centres, hospitals, budget hotel chains, airports, motorway service stations, garage forecourts — so that the public now spends about £1 billion a year on vended refreshment.

● *The author's book* Automatic Vending Machines *is available from Shire Publications, £2.25.*

All operator members of the trade association must achieve Quality Assured Status by next year

The campaign for higher standards

Three years ago the Automatic Vending Association of Britain (AVAB) began developing a standard, initially for operating companies (the firms responsible for cleaning and refilling machines) which would exert control over the way in which member companies provide their services, *Amanda Roberts writes.*



Gledhill: determined

The Quality Initiative provides a method for setting, monitoring and maintaining quantifiable standards. It is specific to the vending industry and offers accreditation to qualifying firms.

Janette Gledhill, the director of the AVAB, says: "The Quality Initiative is a direct result of our determination to demonstrate the high standards to which member operating companies now conform. The focus of the initiative is on addressing and eliminating customer concern by meeting customer needs."

More than 50 per cent of operator members have achieved Quality Assured Status and by January 1, 1998, it will become mandatory for all operators in membership. All operators have assessment books, but the association has budgeted for the eventuality that not all will achieve accreditation first time. All other full members of the AVAB — which includes manufacturers, commodity suppliers and distributors — will also have to achieve Quality Asssured Status by 2001.

The AVAB has recruited a team of quality co-ordinators whose task is to help companies through the accreditation process and then with carrying out an annual audit to ensure that standards are maintained. The first audits have been held and only minimal corrective action has been necessary, though the AVAB is prepared to end a company's membership if the audit reveals problems.

KIPPA MATTHEWS



Jay and Val Taylor of Carovale Supplies achieved Quality Initiative status

David Ingram, the national chairman of the AVAB, believes positive results are already being seen. Independent research shows an improvement in the customers' perception of quality.

The next step will be a book, which is being dubbed *The Vending Bible*, scheduled for launch next month. It will list everything a customer needs to know about choosing a vending service.

Meanwhile one company, Springbank Industries, has developed its own independently assessed qualification for vending operators, based on the NVQ structure. It believes the hotel and catering NVQ, which offers only level-one accreditation, is too simplistic.

QUALITY INITIATIVE IN ACTION

CAROVALE Supplies is a small local vending operating company based in Buntingford, Hertfordshire. It has been trading for 19 years and was one of the first six companies to achieve the AVAB Quality Initiative in April 1995.

The company approached the scheme in an unusual way by giving the responsibility for introducing the necessary procedures, documentation and training throughout the company to Jay Taylor, the son of company co-founder and director, Val Taylor.

Jay was just starting his year out from a BA Honours sandwich course in financial studies at Wolverhampton University. During this time he had to complete a business-related project which would be assessed and contribute to the class of degree awarded. Choosing to introduce the Avab quality scheme at Carovale was a project which involved him in achieving a specific objective which would have a long-term benefit for the company.

There are six main sections to the Avab Quality Initiative:

☐ Contracts: a simple statement of services to the customer.

☐ Document control: concerned with the control of the flow of information throughout the company.

☐ Operations control: standardising methods to ensure staff work to the same standards.

☐ Customer care: includes the introduction of a complaints procedure for customers and staff.

☐ Training: individual plans are necessary for each member of staff.

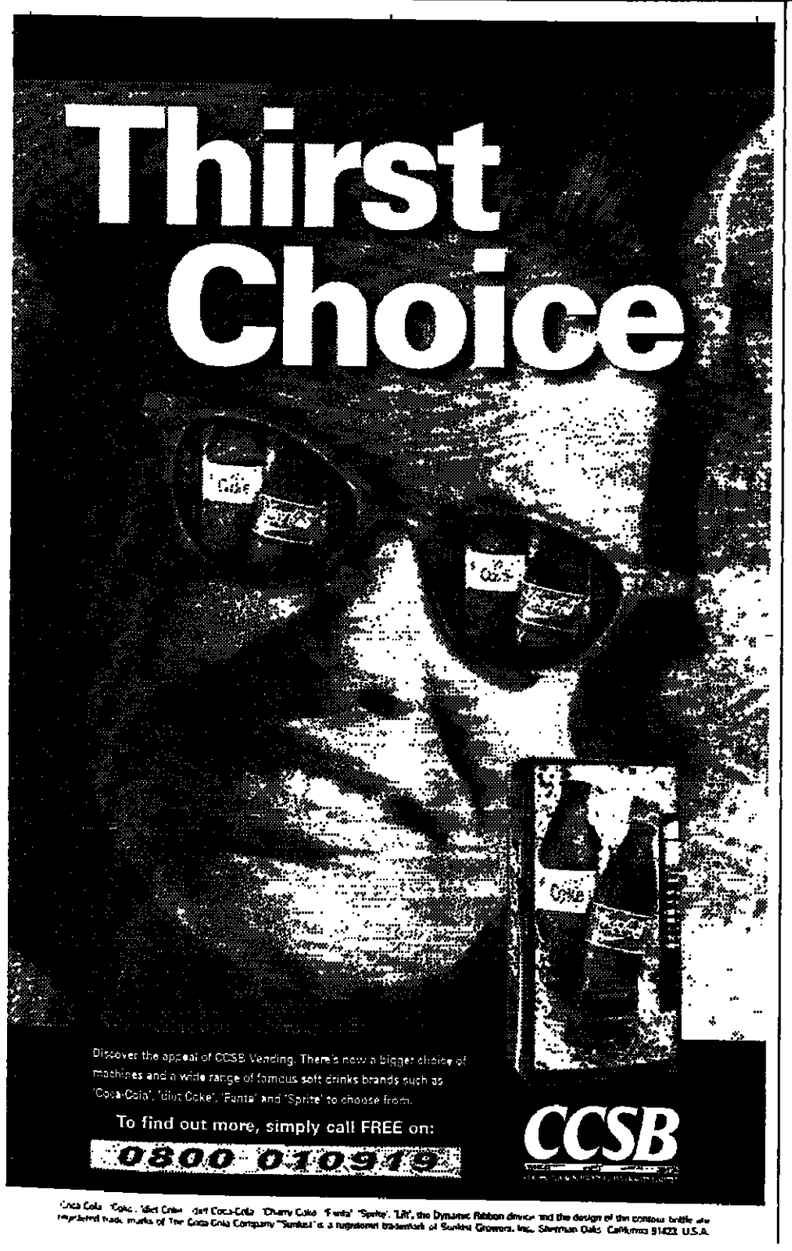
☐ Corrective action: ensures that complaints are followed up and problems resolved.

THE first task faced by Jay was to put together the necessary documentation, which involved writing procedures for all company functions and rewriting individual work instructions. The procedures then had to be implemented for all personnel, including new recruits and the company assessed by the Avab's quality co-ordinator. Carovale Supplies was successful, achieving Quality Assured Status on the first attempt in five months.

Now, two years later, Carovale Supplies is reaping the benefits. Val Taylor says: "Our intention was to ensure systematic and uniform working methods throughout the company which would enhance our service to customers and also generate involvement from all our staff.

"We now feel that we have a system in place which is invaluable for the induction of new employees and also a sound framework which will sustain us for future growth."

Jay was awarded a first for his project.



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Tony Minnis, managing director of Save A Cup, explains his company's recycling operation to David Bellamy

Tony turns in a cup winning performance

Chris Partridge reports on the campaign to make recycling part of the life of every office

The wrapper round the bar of chocolate you have just bought from the machine on Platform 3 is a temporary problem for you — you just find a bin and throw it away. But for the operator, it is a a challenge.

The European Union's packaging directive imposes an obligation on industry to recover or recycle at least half its packaging by the year 2001, and vending machine operators are going to find it tough.

The British approach is to encourage each industry sector to set up co-operatives for recovery and recycling. One of the most innovative of these is Save A Cup, the company set up by the hot-drinks vendors to recycle plastic cups.

Offices in the scheme have placed cup disposal bins shaped like an upturned mushroom next to every coffee machine. Empty cups are put upside down into a tube, allowing the excess liquid to drip into a reservoir. The cleaner empties the bin, storing the cups for collection.

The material is made into pellets which are then transformed into a range of promotional items such as rulers and coasters, filing trays, and even video cases for Boots.

Although many firms operate the system successfully, it has several drawbacks, says the company's managing director, Tony Minnis. "We cannot push Save A Cup into every area of the country because every new town adds to the cost per ton recovered," he says. "We tried using third-party collectors or local councils, but nothing we did reduced the cost."

The answer proved to be an adaptation of a familiar office machine: the shredder. Mr Minnis realised the potential when he was looking at the output of a machine that flaked cups into small chips. "I realised we got a two to one reduction in volume, which might help to reduce the cost of collection," he explains.

A prototype flaker was built and tested in various sites in Bristol, with such success that the scheme is going national. A shredder for plastic cups is launched next month at the vending industry show Avex '97 (see below). It costs £350, plus VAT and delivery.

The shredder is a box similar in size to the familiar paper shredder, with a cup-sized hole in the top. Once a drink has been consumed the empty cup is placed inside, where the machine quietly slices it into flakes which fall into a bag.

The bags are collected by the delivery man for the vending company, which holds all the flaked plastic until there is enough for Save A Cup to collect and recycle.

Reverse delivery, as the trade calls this process, is a major step forward for Save A Cup as it can now expand to cover the country without buying more trucks.

The benefits are substantial, according to Mr Minnis. "We get extremely good results provided a scheme is introduced proactively and communicated to the customer's staff," he says. "We get up to 69 per cent of cups back if it is done well, but this falls back to 50 per cent if not."

Mr Minnis believes that the shredder could transform Save A Cup's prospects of conforming with the EU directive. "I am very optimistic. The first year will be very slow as the operation and the distribution channels get into gear, but we are getting tremendous amounts of interest," he says.

One thing it will never do is make money. "Over the next few years the cost of operation will be reduced. If we are lucky with the price of polystyrene we could break even, but I doubt it," Mr Minnis says.

Gradually, the message is getting across. Even the organisers of marathons are looking at Save A Cup to help with the piles of plastic cups left in the street after the runners pass a drinks station. Instead of just throwing them away, the cups are bagged up and sent to the nearest Save A Cup participating company, from where they are sent on for recycling. The waste from a large half-marathon could end up as 1,000 plastic rulers, or 2,000 plantpots.

The machine knows what you've bought

THE office may seem quiet late at night, but these days your vending machine could be making a phone call. It may even be on the radio, *Peter Brown writes.*

Some machines are being fitted with a unit which uses an electro-mechanical relay system to register every purchase. The unit downloads the information via a phone line or radio link to a remote controller, perhaps hundreds of miles away, running thousands of machines.

The controller uses the data to decide which machines should be visited first the next day, and which products they need.

Rose Hadden, of GPT Telemetry, which makes the units, says they can save 20 per cent of operating costs by cutting out unnecessary visits. "You can organise your stock," she says. "The unit also tells you if the power has been cut off or the door opened."

Based in Liverpool, GPT links machines to phone lines, and offers a low-power radio hop if the nearest telephone is too far away.

Another firm, Paknet (part of Vodaphone), operates a telecommunications network for such devices. "It's a radio-based service," says Mark Brunwin, senior marketing manager, "so there are no fixed wires. If you move the machine, the communications move with it. The system monitors temperature and power and tells you if the coin mechanism is jammed."

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Tridine's Dinah's Kitchen machine serves hot food

Cold drinks and hot potatoes

Avex '97: trailing great advances

A MEASURE of the growth of the refreshment vending industry is the success of its show, Avex '97, which has grown by 20 per cent since 1995. Europe's largest automatic vending exhibition, it will be held at Manchester's G-Mex Centre from April 8-10, *Peter Brown writes.*

The advances to be launched by the 135 exhibitors will include new cold chocolate and cold cappuccino drinks (from Premier Beverages); crisps with new flavours (KP Foods); table-top Coke and coffee stations (Spengler); a huge seven-shelf vending machine (ABC Leisure); a machine that uses varying water pressure instead of a mixing bowl (Wittenborg); and a "robotic" frozen-food merchandiser said to put the theatre into vending (Polyvend).

Tridine, of Essex, has developed a hot-food vending machine called Dinah's Kitchen, which will supply the hungry with anything from Cajun chicken to beefburgers and jacket potatoes, followed by hot chocolate and syrup puddings. The food is said to be ready to eat in 40 seconds.

The new "revolutionary" Virgin branded can vender will also be on display from Vendcare Services, with machines supplied by Zanussi.

Associated products and services will range from water purification and data transfer to recycling and leasing. The show will also provide the launchpad for the new Save A Cup recycling scheme. Details: 01737 357 211.

Coinciding with the show for the first time this year will be the presentation by Sir Bernard Ingham of the industry's AVAB "Oscars".

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The following vending service companies have all committed themselves to the new AVAB Quality Assurance qualification

NORTH EAST

Allexion Hoult, Allexion Northern Ltd	01246 430043
Aramark Plc	01189 596761
Automatic Retailing (Northern) Ltd	0191 487 4046
Beaver Group Plc	0800 919077
Border Vending Ltd	0191 263 3007
Britvic Soft Drinks Ltd	0345 585 450
Calvenda Vending Services Ltd	0113 257 3750
Ceemor Vending Ltd	01472 871244
City Vending Co Ltd	FREEFONE 'CITY VENDING'
Coca-Cola & Schweppes Beverages Ltd	0800 010919
Consultant Vending Services Ltd	01924 409988
Eurest Vending Services	0181 741 1541
Executive Vending	01924 899 099
Fallongham & Taylor (Vending) Ltd	01482 320600
Gardner Merchant Vending Services	01709 370 799
Gem Vending Ltd	01332 811911
Glenn Angus Vending Ltd	0191 385 7373
Granada Vending Services Ltd	0990 484848
Leasel & Company Ltd	01274 726965
North Eastern Catering and Vending Ltd	0191 565 3362
Northern Vending Services Ltd	01274 732771
Provend Services Ltd	0800 526681
Refreshers Ltd	0191 492 0903
J N Ruddsdale Vending	01759 305166
*Sinclair Collis Ltd	01902 352515
Spa Vending	01765 658113
Springbank Industries Ltd	01785 815551
Stephenson Automatic Venders	01484 682671
Tea Break Services Ltd	01302 342255
Thomas Vending	0114 269 6660
Upton Vending Ltd	01757 702952
U-Select-It	01484 682671
Vendcare Services Ltd	01246 451 219
Vendepac	0800 622986
Vending Enterprises (D G Payne Ltd)	01724 842301
The Vending and Catering Co Plc	0500 451452
White Rose Vending	01723 365890
Wilkes Vending Services Ltd	01924 373121

NORTH WEST

Allexion Hoult, Allexion Northern Ltd	01246 430043
Aramark Plc	01189 596761
B & B Vending Ltd	0800 220182
Beaver Group Plc	0800 919077
Border Vending	01228 29977
Britvic Soft Drinks Ltd	0345 585450
Cheshire Coffee Services	01606 836397
Cheshire Vending Services Ltd	01925 852184
City Vending Co Ltd	FREEFONE 'CITY VENDING'
Clarks Vending	01253 725733
Coca-Cola & Schweppes Beverages Ltd	0800 010919
Consultant Vending Services Ltd	01924 409988
Coin-a-Drink	01922 640777
Crown Cup Limited	01782 625752
Eurest Vending Services	0181 741 1541
Executive Vending Ltd	01924 899099
Freshfast (a Division of Vendaclean Ltd)	0161 301 1227
Gardner Merchant Vending Services	01709 370799
Granada Vending Services Ltd	0990 484848
Knightsbridge Vending Ltd	0161 205 7858
Macclesfield Vending Services Ltd	01625 619500
Manchester Vending Services Ltd	0161 998 8526
Mann Vend Ltd	01624 613131
Northern Vending Services Ltd	0161 877 0850
Provend Services Ltd	0800 526681
J and J R Pye	01995 640228
Reliable Refreshment Services Ltd	01925 414144
SelectaCup Ltd	0800 919077
*Sinclair Collis Ltd	01902 352515
Springbank Industries Ltd	01785 815551
Stephenson Automatic Venders	01484 682671
Total Vending Systems Ltd	01772 628899
U-Select-It	01484 682671
Vendcare Services Ltd	0161 872 8227
Vendepac	0800 622986
The Vending and Catering Co Plc	0500 451452

EAST MIDLANDS

Allexion Hoult, Allexion Northern Ltd	01246 430043
Aramark Plc	01189 596761
Armadale Vending Services	01487 813892
Automatic Retailing Midlands Ltd	01788 560016
Britvic Soft Drinks Ltd	0345 585450
Cambridge Vending	01223 425522
Cameo Vending Ltd	01908 568652
Ceemor Vending Ltd	01472 871244
City Vending Co Ltd	FREEFONE 'CITY VENDING'
Coca-Cola & Schweppes Beverages Ltd	0800 010919
County Marketing Ltd	01582 665317
Crown Cup Limited	01782 625752
Eurest Vending Services	0181 741 1541
Executive Vending	01924 899099
First Service Vending	01604 231666
Gardner Merchant Vending Services	01709 370799
Gem Vending Ltd	01332 811911
Granada Vending Services Ltd	0990 484848
Integer VBD Ltd	01536 744144
Marriott Vending Services Ltd	01162 630790
Midland Vending Services Ltd	01509 230481
N.V.C.S. Ltd	01778 560789
Provend Services Ltd	0800 526681
*Sinclair Collis Ltd	01902 352515
Springbank Industries Ltd	01785 815551
Stephenson Automatic Venders	01484 682671
U-Select-It	01484 682671
Vendcare Services Ltd	01902 404466
Vendepac	0800 622986
Vending Enterprises (D G Payne Ltd)	01724 842301
The Vending and Catering Co Plc	0500 451452
Vendustrial Ltd	01462 672011
The Very Good Vending Co Ltd	01869 240000
Vitas Vending	01733 54444

WEST MIDLANDS

Allexion Hoult, Allexion Northern Ltd	01246 430043
Aramark Plc	01189 596761
Automatic Retailing Midlands Ltd	01788 560016
B & B Vending Ltd	0800 220182
Beaver Group Plc	0800 919077
Britvic Soft Drinks Ltd	0345 585450
Cheshire Coffee Services	01606 836397
City Vending Co Ltd	FREEFONE 'CITY VENDING'
Coca-Cola & Schweppes Beverages Ltd	0800 010919
Coin-a-Drink Ltd	01922 640777
Crown Cup Limited	01782 625752
Cuppa Vending Ltd	01384 896441
Eurest Vending Services	0181 741 1541
Executive Vending	01924 899099
First Service Vending	01604 231666
Gardner Merchant Vending Services	01709 370799
Gem Vending Ltd	01332 811911
Granada Vending Services Ltd	0990 484848
Macclesfield Vending Services Ltd	01625 619500
Midland Vending Services Ltd	01509 230481
Options Management Ltd	01270 882063
Provend Services Ltd	0800 526681
Shires Vending Services Ltd	01743 443088
*Sinclair Collis Ltd	01902 352515
Brian Smith Catering Services Ltd	01527 576223
Springbank Industries Ltd	01785 815551
Stephenson Automatic Venders	01484 682671
Sure Serve Ltd	0121 313 1003
U-Select-It	01484 682671
Vendaid Automatic Caterers Ltd	0121 552 9000
Vendcare Nationwide Services Ltd	01993 773561
Vendcare Services Ltd	01902 401104
Vendepac	0800 622986
The Vending Company	01902 712155
Vending Ltd	01905 20442
The Vending and Catering Co Plc	0500 451452
Vendustrial Ltd	01905 77876

HOME COUNTIES

Arabica Coffee	01483 303131
Academy Beverage Co Ltd	0181 450 8070
Armadale Vending Services	01487 813892
Automatic Retailing Midlands Ltd	01788 560016
Britvic Soft Drinks Ltd	0345 585450
Butlers Services Ltd	0171 488 3456
Caffeica Ltd	01993 778753
Cambridge Vending	01223 425522
Cameo Vending Ltd	01908 568652
Care Vending Services	01582 450760
Carovale Supplies Ltd	01763 272844
Caterfare Service Ltd	01296 394848
City Vending Co Ltd	FREEFONE 'CITY VENDING'
Coca-Cola & Schweppes Beverages Ltd	0800 010919
County Marketing Ltd	01582 665317
Eurest Vending Services	0181 741 1541
Executive Vending	01924 899099
First Service Vending	01604 231666
Gardner Merchant Vending Services	01709 370799
Granada Vending Services Ltd	0990 484848
Hallmark Vending Ltd	01483 224122
J & L Vending Services Ltd	0800 919077
Marriott Vending Services Ltd	01162 630790
Matrix Vending Ltd	0181 297 2722
N.V.C.S. Ltd	01603 720004
Provend Services Ltd	0800 526681
Rainbovend Ltd	01932 247724
Simply Drinks Ltd	0181 874 3628
*Sinclair Collis Ltd	01902 352515
Springbank Industries Ltd	01785 815551
Stephenson Automatic Venders	01484 682671
U-Select-It	01484 682671
Vendcare Nationwide Services Ltd	01993 773561
Vendcare Services Ltd	0181 391 4981
Vendepac	0800 622986
The Vending and Catering Co Plc	0500 451452
Vendustrial Ltd	01462 672011
The Very Good Vending Co Ltd	01869 240000
Zepbrook Ltd	0181 752 0110

EAST ANGLIA

Aramark Plc	01189 596761
Armadale Vending Services	01487 813892
Automatic Retailing Midlands Ltd	01788 560016
Britvic Soft Drinks Ltd	0345 585450
Cambridge Vending	01223 425522
Carovale Supplies Ltd	01763 272844
City Vending Co Ltd	FREEFONE 'CITY VENDING'
Coca-Cola & Schweppes Beverages Ltd	0800 010919
Eurest Vending Services	0181 741 1541
Executive Vending	01924 899 099
Freshco International Ltd	01603 402523
Gardner Merchant Vending Services	01709 370799
Granada Vending Services Ltd	0990 484848
Marriott Vending Services Ltd	01162 630790
Morvend Ltd	01449 612095
N.V.C.S. Ltd	01603 720004
Provend Services Ltd	0800 526681
R & A Vending	01255 429083
*Sinclair Collis Ltd	01902 352515
Springbank Industries Ltd	01785 815551
Stephenson Automatic Venders	01484 682671
U-Select-It	01484 682671
Vendcare Services Ltd	01993 773561
Vendepac	0800 622986
The Vending and Catering Co Plc	0500 451452

SOUTH EAST

Arabica Coffee	01483 303131
Aramark Plc	01189 596761
Best Beverage Systems Ltd	0181 647 0927
Beltavend	01703 211996
Britvic Soft Drinks Ltd	0345 585450
Butlers Services Ltd	0171 488 3456
Caterfare Service Ltd	01296 394848
City Vending Co Ltd	FREEFONE 'CITY VENDING'
Coca-Cola & Schweppes Beverages Ltd	0800 010919
Coffee Point Plc	0171 515 8822
Comovend Ltd	01705 210444
Descant Vending Ltd	01732 862836
Ellie Vending Service	01428 605255
Eurest Vending Services	0181 741 1541
Executive Vending Ltd	01924 899099
Garden-County Vending Ltd	01622 738434
Gardner Merchant Vending Services	01709 370799
Granada Vending Services Ltd	0990 484848
Hallmark Vending Ltd	01483 224122
Innovend (a Division of Leesel & Co Ltd)	01273 489555
J & L Vending Services Ltd	0181 397 5181
Jones Bros (Vending Machines) Ltd	01273 410234
Marriott Vending Services Ltd	01182 630790
Matrix Vending Ltd	0181 297 2722
Millsons Vending	01732 353654
Phoenix Triangle Vending Ltd	01883 652007
Provend Services Ltd	0800 526681
Rainbovend Ltd	01932 247724
Seymour Vending Ltd	0171 928 7474
*Sinclair Collis Ltd	01902 352515
Springbank Industries Ltd	01785 815551
Stephenson Automatic Venders	01484 682671
Supercups Vending Ltd	01233 626611
Sussex County Vending Ltd	01273 540618
U-Select-It	01484 682671
Vendcare Nationwide Services Ltd	01993 773561
Vendcare Services Ltd	0181 3914981

SOUTH WEST

Aramark Plc	01189 596761
J Bolton & Son	01297 443655
Britvic Soft Drinks Ltd	0345 585450
Caterfare Service Ltd	01296 394848
Church Coffee Service	01935 824477
City Vending Co Ltd	FREEFONE 'CITY VENDING'
Coca-Cola & Schweppes Beverages Ltd	0800 010919
Eurest Vending Services	0181 741 1541
Executive Vending	01924 899099
Gardner Merchant Vending Services	01709 370799
Granada Vending Services Ltd	0990 484848
Hilton Vending Services & Equipment	01225 769244
Jackson Vending Ltd	01726 63417
Lyons Vending Services	0117 988 7227
Marriott Vending Services Ltd	01162 630790
Mendip Vending Company Ltd	01749 674772
One Stop Catering & Vending Ltd	01202 660188
Provend Services Ltd	0800 526681
Select Vending	01752 257666
*Sinclair Collis Ltd	01902 352515
South Devon Vending	01803 526545
Springbank Industries Ltd	01785 815551
Stephenson Automatic Venders	01484 682671
U-Select-It	01484 682671
Vendcare Nationwide Services Ltd	01993 773561
Vendcare Services Ltd	01179 382020
Vendepac	0800 622986
Vending Ltd	01905 20442
The Vending and Catering Co Plc	0500 451452

SCOTLAND

Angus Vending Services	01241 859450
Aramark Plc	01189 596761
Automatic Retailing (Scotland) Ltd	01698 842266
Beaver Group Plc	0161 848 8548
Britvic Soft Drinks Ltd	0345 585450
City Vending Co Ltd	FREEFONE 'CITY VENDING'
Coca-Cola & Schweppes Beverages Ltd	0800 010919
Dexstat Ltd	01563 821900
Eurest Vending Services	0181 741 1541
Executive Vending	01924 899099
Excel Vending Ltd	01355 269999
Five Star Vending	0141 637 9594
Gardner Merchant Vending Services	01709 370799
Granada Vending Services Ltd	0990 484848
Myrtle Coffee Services	01592 874242
Osprey Vending Services	01224 771478
Provend Services Ltd	0800 526681
Sanderson Vending Ltd	01592 610666
*Sinclair Collis Ltd	01902 352515
Springbank Industries Ltd	01785 815551
Stephenson Automatic Venders	01484 682671
U-Select-It	01484 682671
Vendcare Services Ltd	01236 725878
Vendepac	0800 622986
The Vending Partnership	01360 311259
The Vending and Catering Co Plc	0500 451452

WALES

Aramark Plc	01189 596761
Beaver Group Plc	0161 848 8548
Britvic Soft Drinks Ltd	0345 585450
Cheshire Vending Services Ltd	01925 852184
Coca-Cola & Schweppes Beverages Ltd	0800 010919
Cymraeg Vending	01446 744475
Eurest Vending Services	0181 741 1541
Gardner Merchant Vending Services	01709 370799
Granada Vending Services Ltd	0990 484848
Manchester Vending Services Ltd	0161 998 8526
Provend Services Ltd	0800 526681
*Sinclair Collis Ltd	01902 352515
Springbank Industries Ltd	01785 815551
U-Select-It	01484 682671
Vendcare Services Ltd	01179 382020
Vendepac	0800 622986
The Vending and Catering Co Plc	0500 451452
Vendustrial Ltd	01633 601010

N. IRELAND

Britvic Soft Drinks Ltd	0345 585450
Eurest Vending Services	0181 741 1541
Gardner Merchant Vending Services	01709 370799
Service Sales Co Ltd	01232 826562
Vendepac	0800 622986
The Vending and Catering Co Plc	0500 451452
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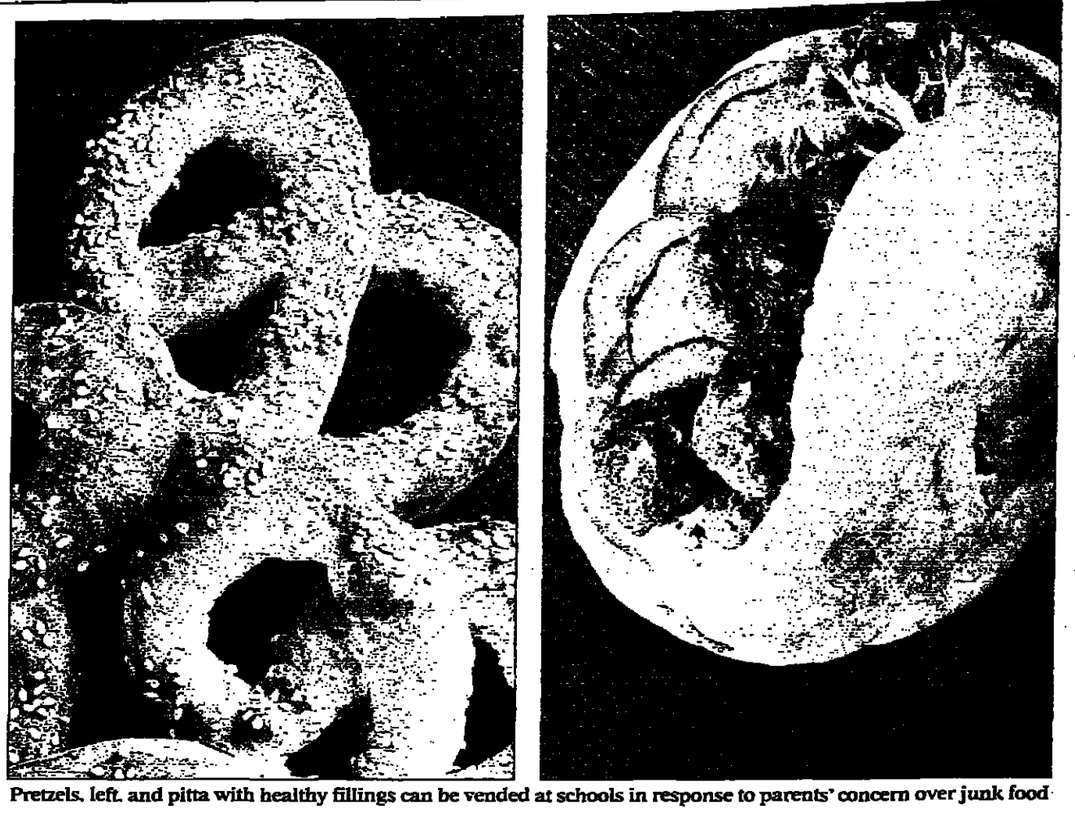
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AVAB Automatic Vending Association of Britain

Food and drink dispensers are a perpetual temptation to children. **Amanda Roberts** reviews the moves towards healthy meal breaks

Could this mean the end of the tuck shop?



Pretzels, left, and pitta with healthy fillings can be vended at schools in response to parents' concern over junk food

The vending industry has made real efforts over the past decade to improve its image. Playing an important part in this are the several codes of practice and the code of ethics to which the Automatic Vending Association of Britain (AVAB) expects its members to conform.

At the nuts-and-bolts end, an AVAB technical handbook provides guidance and support on such issues as water hygiene, microbiological recommendations, testing of water treatment units, hygiene, machine operation, control of substances hazardous to health, routine testing for electrical safety and product labelling.

On the broader front, the code of ethics and the customer charter outline the way in which member companies should carry out their business. The main requirement in the code of ethics is that members "supply high quality service and products to the public at all times" while the customer charter goes into more detail about service requirements. It forms "the basis for a continuing, satisfactory fair-trading relationship with customers" and covers such issues as service response, spare parts provision and value-for-money.

A further code of practice covers the controversial issue of vending in schools. Vending machines are now part of the catering offered at schools throughout the country and often contribute significantly to a school's income, but they have not been welcomed with open arms. Parents and teachers are worried that such machines encourage children to eat more chocolate and crisps and buy sugary soft drinks.

The AVAB has been working with the Schools Nutrition Action Groups, SNAGS, to devise a code of practice for vending in schools. SNAGS are school-based alliances in which staff, pupils and caterers work together to review and expand the overall range of food and drink provided through the tuck shop, vending machines, the midday meal, breakfasts and catering at social functions.

The key points of the code of practice for vending in schools maintain that AVAB members have a responsibility to provide a choice of products. This should include, for instance, low-calorie drinks, decaffeinated coffee (where hot drinks are supplied), fresh fruit, low-fat crisps and nuts. Vending should not be viewed in isolation but as one part of the total catering provision.

The AVAB says it has had no complaints about the activities of member companies in school vending since the code of practice was introduced, although it often receives requests from schools for more information.

Despite these initiatives, however, vending packages offered to schools do not always include healthy options. Some major soft-drinks manufacturers will offer free machines, strongly branded with their product, often in conjunction with a form of "sponsorship", which means that the site benefits financially from the machine placement.

In return, the site is restricted to stocking the machine with products from that manufacturer, which may or may not include a strong portfolio of healthier drinks — sugar-free fruit juice, milk or flavoured waters.

This is not an unusual approach and the same package would probably be offered to other sites such as factories, leisure centres and airports, for instance, without anyone raising an eyebrow. In schools, of course, there are wider issues to consider.

Schools can always refuse these packages if they do not feel that they offer the appropriate balance of refreshments. And there are other options available, although the financial package may differ.

The Dairy Industry Federation is starting to penetrate the schools market with machines vending milk in cartons with straws. In fact, the federation is behind a move to ensure that all schools have milk available, through machines or otherwise.

Flavoured milk is proving the most popular variety among children, although semi-skimmed milk is also offered, as well as fruit juices. The biggest problem with vending milk is the packaging. The carton with a straw is often perceived as a childish way of taking a drink by teenagers, who will refuse it in favour of a product in a can. This problem is being addressed.

With a little imagination, the product offered in a machine can be transformed. Deutsche Wurlitzer makes glass-fronted snack merchandisers. It is not tied to any manufacturers of chocolates or snacks and its machines do not have to feature their advertising. In fact, its machines, in common with most glass-fronted snack merchandisers, can vend a much wider product range than they are usually asked to.

Deutsche Wurlitzer is sponsoring an initiative to introduce healthier snacks to school vending machines. The company is launching a recipe sheet offering ten healthy alternatives devised by Dr Jenny Poulter, a nutritionist.

The recipes are based on fieldwork from the Heart in the Mouth project, a year-long experiment in encouraging healthier eating patterns in Kent schools. This project found that children will choose healthy snacks, provided they are packaged, marketed and priced correctly.

Among the recipes which Deutsche Wurlitzer is introducing are garlic or onion pretzels and pittas filled with Swedish meatballs. Recipes list full nutritional information and contain less than 5g fat and below 5g non-milk extrinsic sugar (the sort which damages teeth).

The recipes have been devised to enable any school caterer to produce them easily. The machine will do the rest.

Plastic puts pressure on pennies

Cashless systems are growing fast. **Stephen Hoare** on the development of a multipurpose card

In his book *The Road Ahead*, Bill Gates foresees the arrival of the "wallet PC" — a tiny computer that can store the information presently held on credit cards and a lot more besides.

The prospect is nothing new for Geoff Barnes, head of Girovend. His company is well on the way to realising the head of Microsoft's vision of a cashless society: "We provide a financial management solution for a cashless environment and we can apply this technology to any area where cash transactions take place."

In the workplace, cash is still used extensively in vending machines, staff canteens, photo booths and photocopiers. But coins in the slot or money in the till make for complications. Machines have to be emptied and staff have to operate tills — money has to be counted and banked. "It costs 15 per cent of turnover to handle the cash involved in vending. This is money we can save," Mr Barnes says.

The cashless solution comes in the form of plastic swipe cards or contactless chips that can be issued to staff to use instead of money. A swipe card or a microchip holds a store of electronic credits, some of which are automatically debited as the card is passed through a vending machine or till. But will employees take to adding yet another credit card?

Possibly — especially if the cashless card can incorporate other functions. When Winterthur Life, the insurance group, wanted to go cashless at its headquarters in Basingstoke it asked Quintus Systems to come up with a card which staff could use in the company restaurant and in place of their existing security swipe cards.



This card stores credit and makes cash obsolete

More than 80 per cent of cashless cards incorporate multiple functions and many double as access control, photo ID and personnel files. Companies can use the cashless cards to provide management information.

Mars Electronics, makers of payment systems for vending machines, have just taken the idea of the multicard one step further. Launched last month, the firm's Multicard Smart is compatible with Mondex, one of a new generation of electronic cash cards being developed by the three leading credit card companies, Mastercard, Visa and American Express.

By the turn of the century we will probably be familiar with the new E-cards under names such as Mondex, Visacash and Proton. Their sponsor's aim is to hold a major share of cash transactions by replacing money in people's wallets. Andy Matko, the Mars cashless marketing manager, says: "We are linking a public cash card to a closed site. And we are offering our customers the option of having a cashless system which will be compatible with a national cash card."

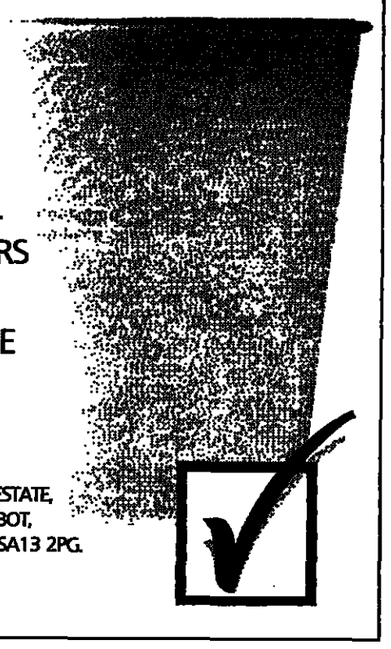
Cashless systems now account for one in eight of all new vending machines — twice as many as three years ago. Keith Tuson, managing director of VendePac, says: "Cashless is going to spread very fast. The thought of having to adapt machines yet again because of coinage changes like the new 50p and the £2 coin is concentrating a few minds."

Mr Matko says: "We have seen the market for cashless double over the past four years right across Europe. Now that has to be significant against the background of the vending industry which has only been growing at a rate of 3 to 4 per cent each year." Meanwhile Mr Barnes is taking a leaf out of Bill Gates's book. He has developed his own software application — Girovend for Windows.

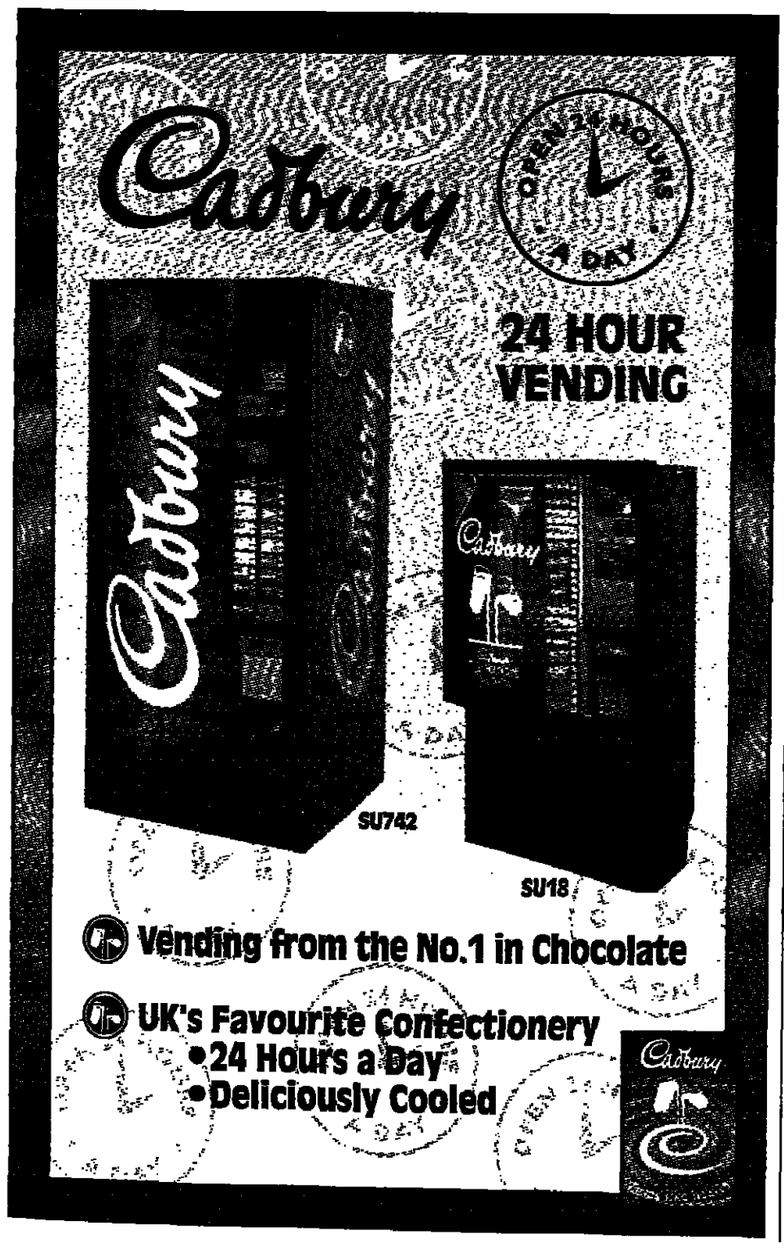
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Changes to currency are a headache for manufacturers of coin mechanisms, who have to be warned well in advance of any changes, says **John Young**

What a new coin really costs

On July 1 2002 the euro is due to become the only currency of the European Union. If all goes according to plan, the pound, franc, mark and lira will be consigned to history. The inhabitants of this brave new world will have had just six months to accustom themselves to the new coins.

If the new European superstate fails to materialise, however, the Royal Mint and its counterparts across the Continent will have wasted three years working flat out to produce the countless billions of coins needed to service it.

This continuing uncertainty does not make life any easier for the manufacturers of coin boxes and vending machines. Every change in the shape, size, weight and composition of the coinage means that each machine has to be reprogrammed to accept the new and reject the old.

In Britain the new 50p and £2 coins will come into circulation on September 1 and November 1 respectively this year. The Automatic Vending Association of Britain has estimated that switching to them will cost its members some £27 million.

Weighed against the great issues of national sovereignty and economic prosperity which the euro debate encompasses, the interests of the vending industry may seem trivial. Any decision on a change of coinage is a matter for national governments, in Britain's case the Treasury in consultation with the Royal Mint.

'Switching to the new British coins will cost the industry £27 million'

Changes are usually made for convenience purposes; the present 50p coin, like the old copper coins of pre-decimalisation days, is considered cumbersome and its size out of proportion to its value.

But the vending industry is much more involved than is realised. Not only is it advised of impending changes in coinage long before the public, but its leaders are routinely called on for advice and comment. For example, it is three years since senior staff at Mars Electronic International (MEI), makers of coin mechanisms, were invited to meet officials from the Treasury and the Royal Mint to discuss the introduction of the new British coins. These were (and are) seen as a "dry run" for the introduction of the euro, due to go into production this summer regardless of which countries are prepared to meet the political deadline.

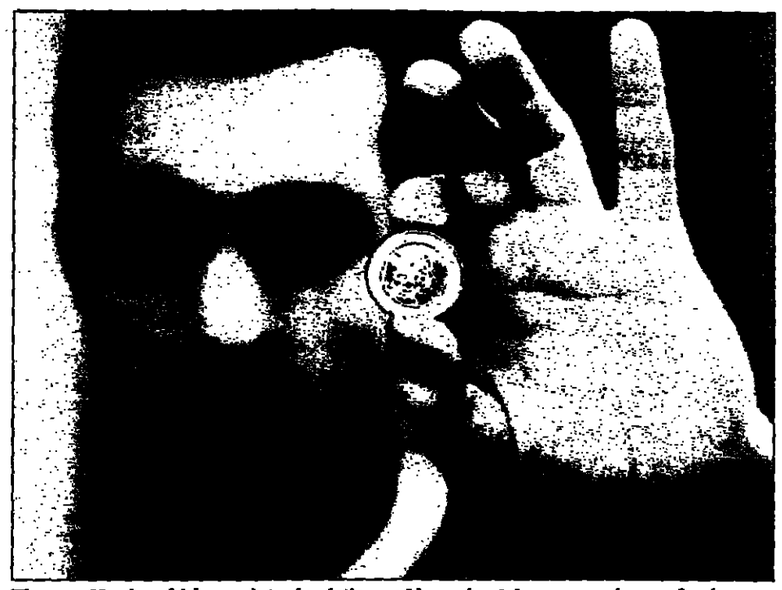
The European Vending Association, the umbrella body for the various national associations, has lobbied for a one-year transition period but now accepts that six months is the best it can hope for. Several national governments still favour an overnight "big bang" changeover, as when Britain converted to a decimalised currency.

Whether or not Britain joins the new currency, MEI is assuming that other countries, led by France and Germany, will do so. "If it goes ahead, we will be prepared," says Steve Parkin, the company's European marketing manager. About 95 per cent of all the vending machines sold in Britain are fitted with MEI coin boxes. These electronic "brains", as Steve Green, the company's marketing manager, calls them, have become increasingly proficient at rejecting coins that fail to measure up and supplying customers with change.

Effective, but by no means infallible. "It would be wrong to suggest that we have yet been able to develop a system which will reject all fraudulent ones," says Mr Green. Foreign coins can, and do, slip through the net, as do metal "slugs".

The most difficult characteristic for fraudsters to simulate is metal content, which is why bi-metallic coins have become increasingly popular since the introduction of the Italian 500 lira 20 years ago. The new £2 will be Britain's first bi-metallic coin. Fraud should in theory, become more difficult with the move towards a "cashless" economy.

The biggest headache for the industry remains the propensity of most countries — with the notable exceptions of the United States and Germany — to change their coinage at regular intervals. With the introduction of the new British 50p and £2 coins, MEI believes it has cracked the problem with its Cashflow Field Programmer, with which machines can be readjusted within minutes instead of being returned to the factory to be reprogrammed.



The new £2 coin, which goes into circulation on November 1, is seen as a dry run for the euro

Buy or lease your coffee-maker?

Stephen Hoare on what a company should know before it gets a vending machine

If an army moves on its stomach, then a workforce thrives on cups of coffee. Mainly leased by employers, Britain's 330,000 vending machines dispense 10 million hot drinks a year — 80 per cent of them coffee — and a fair bit of confectionery.

Janette Gledhill, director of AVAB, says: "It's a £1 billion consumer spend through the slot."

With so much at stake, businesses are getting choosy about their vending machines and are demanding value for money and the trend is towards branded drinks.

Keith Tuson, managing director of contract operator VendePac, says: "People are finding anonymous coffee less and less acceptable. The majority of drinks being sold through vending machines are now branded."

Part of the reason for this is the boom in vending machines in leisure clubs and public buildings. Mainly, these sell branded products for 40p a cup, compared with 15-20p in the workplace.

Contract operators such as VendePac and ProVend will supply a machine and a service contract. Not tied to a particular manufacturer, they will find a make and model of machine to suit customers' needs.

Operators rarely make anything on the supply of a machine — their profit comes from a three to five-year operating contract. The contract is usually based on a weekly management fee of, say, £25 per machine, the cost of servicing the machine, and a variable charge according to the number of cups to cover the cost of ingredients.

Beware of operators offering a "cup plan". This is a leasing plan similar to a discredited practice by which photocopiers were leased on a minimum number of copies.

Clients charged on the basis of 1,000 cups a week regardless of quantity consumed could find themselves considerably overcharged, according to the contracts committee of the Automatic Vending Association of Britain, which outlawed the practice a year ago.

Should a company buy or lease? With leasing, the firm can set off all payments against corporation tax, whereas with a cash sale half the cost may be offset against tax, with an annual sum built in to the accounts for depreciation.

Mr Tuson says: "It depends on individual circumstances, but over a five-year contract I'd say the balance is just in favour of cash. Holding cash reserves is not going to earn much interest so companies might as well buy. But having said that, leasing is still usual."

If a customer decides to go for leasing, a contract operator will introduce him to a leasing company who will finance the purchase of a machine — someone such as Lloyds Bowmaker, BZW, or Anglo Finance.

It is part of AVAB code to deal only with companies who are members of the Finance Leasing Association (FLA).

'High volume makes a machine work better'

Dealing directly with the customer, the leasing company will take the risk and finance the machine over a set period. Usually the contract operator's service contract for the machine will be arranged over the same period, with a three or five-year lease mirrored by a three or five-year contract.

As a rule of thumb, operators recommend one machine per 65 staff. With an average individual consumption of three cups a day, they claim the best value comes from a machine that is doing 1,000 vends a week.

Mr Tuson says: "High volume makes a machine work harder and better. It's good for the industry and good for the client because he's maximising the use of the equipment he's bought or rented."

There are economies of scale. If you have more than 20 machines you may need to employ someone full-time to look after them.

Midlands Vending, the contract operator, has just struck a deal with Alliance & Leicester to supply vending machines to the company's new headquarters' offices in Leicester.

David McQueen, Midlands' managing director, says: "We put in more than 50 machines and have appointed two residential staff to look after them. The more you buy in bulk, the better the deal."

So how do you know if you are getting a good deal? The answer is easy, says AVAB director Ms Gledhill: "You go to an AVAB member."

The 320 member companies — which include machine manufacturers, distributors, commodity manufacturers and contract operators — work to a code of ethics. If a company is not happy with the service, then it can call in the AVABto mediate.

Ms Gledhill says: "We make sure the operator complies with its contract.

"If they fall short they face sanctions, which in the worst case could result in expulsion from the association."

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Liability for making fire worse

Capital and Counties plc and Another v Hampshire County Council
John Munroe (Acrylics) Ltd v London Fire and Civil Defence Authority and Others
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Great Britain) v West Yorkshire Fire and Civil Defence Authority

Before Lord Justice Stuart Smith, Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice Judge

[Judgment March 14]

A fire brigade was not under a common law duty to answer a call for help or take care to do so, but a plaintiff could recover against the brigade for its negligence in creating a danger which caused the plaintiff's injury.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing three appeals: (i) by the defendant, Hampshire County Council, from the decision of Judge Richard Havery, QC (*The Times* April 26, 1996; [1996] 1 WLR 1553), sitting on official referees' business, in favour of the plaintiffs, Capital and Counties plc and Digital Equipment Co Ltd; (ii) by the plaintiff, John Munroe (Acrylics) Ltd, from the decision of Mr Justice Rougier (*The Times* May 22, 1996; [1996] 3 WLR 988) in favour of the first defendant, London Fire Brigade and Civil Defence Authority; (iii) by the plaintiff, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Great Britain), from a decision of Judge Crawford, QC (*The Times* May 9, 1996), sitting as a judge of the High Court, in favour of the defendant, West Yorkshire Fire and Civil Defence Authority.

Mr James Munby, QC and Mr Edward Faulks, QC, for Hampshire: Mr John Slater, QC, Mr Simon Brown, QC and Mr Alexander Antelme for Capital and Counties; Mr Jonathan Sumption, QC and Mr Nigel Tozzi for Digital; Mr Ronald Walker, QC and Mr Toby Hooper for John Munroe; Mr Michael De Navarro, QC, Mr Graham Eklund and Mr Neil Hext for London Fire Brigade and Civil Defence Authority; Mr Anthony Boswood, QC and Mr Bruce Speller for The Church of Jesus Christ; Mr Colin MacKay, QC and Mr Jonathan Bellamy for West Yorkshire Fire and Civil Defence Authority.

LORD JUSTICE STUART SMITH, giving the judgment of the court, said that by an order dated December 17, 1996 Lord Justice Judge ordered that the appeals should be consolidated and argued together because they raised similar questions of law, in particular whether and in what circumstances a fire brigade owed a duty of care to the owner or occupier of premises which were damaged or destroyed by fire.

In the first case Capital were the developers and head lessees of the Crescent, in Basingstoke, Hampshire. Between 1989 and the date of the fire on March 6, 1990 Digital, an American company, occupied the Crescent as under-lessees. The Crescent was equipped with a heat-activated sprinkler system for combating fire.

The fire began at about 10am in a block of the building. The sprinklers began to operate at 10.23am, before the arrival of the fire brigade. At 10.50am the sprinkler system was shut down on the instructions of Station Officer Mitchell. The judge held that the officer's action in turning off the sprinkler system was negligent.

Disabling the sprinklers had an adverse effect on the restraining of the fire and led to its going out of control. The building was a total loss. The damage was assessed at £16 million.

In the second case the second defendants, Any Effects Ltd, now in liquidation, specialising in creating special effects for film and television, caused a deliberate explosion on wasteland near the plaintiff's industrial premises. Burning debris was scattered over a wide area and small fires broke out. Some of the debris was seen to fall on to the plaintiffs' premises.

When the fire brigade arrived the second defendants' staff had already extinguished the fires on the wasteland and there was no visible evidence of any continuing conflagration.

The fire brigade's officers took steps to satisfy themselves that all fires had been extinguished and that there was no residual danger and they left the scene without inspecting the plaintiff's premises.

Later that evening, a fire broke out at the plaintiff's premises, which were severely damaged. The plaintiff issued a writ against the fire authority alleging negligence by their servants or agents. The judge, on a preliminary issue whether the fire brigade owed any duty of care to the plaintiff, held that the fire brigade was not under a duty of care, there was no sufficient proximity between the parties, and it was not fair and reasonable to impose such a duty on the brigade.

In the third case the claim was for £1.8 million, being the cost of repairing the plaintiff's chapel after a disastrous fire on October 22, 1992 which began in a classroom attached to the chapel.

It was alleged in the statement of claim that it was not until some time after arrival that the brigade was able to fight the fire, owing to the absence of a proper supply of water. The plaintiff's claim was framed both in negligence and in breach of statutory duty under section 13 of the Fire Services Act 1947.

The defendant applied to strike out the statement of claim as disclosing no reasonable cause of action. The judge dismissed the action.

The question whether in the absence of a statutory authority a statutory power to act could be converted into a common law duty to exercise the power was considered by the House of Lords in *Stovin v Wise* ([1996] AC 923). The fire brigade was not under a common law duty to answer a call for help and was not under a duty to take care to do so.

But where a rescue service itself by negligence created the danger which caused the plaintiff's injury there was no doubt that the plaintiff could recover: see, for example, *Rigby v Chief Constable of Northamptonshire* ([1985] 1 WLR 1242) and *Knightly v Johns* ([1982] 1 WLR 349).

Section 13 of the 1947 Act provides: "A fire brigade shall take all reasonable measures for ensuring the provision of an adequate supply of water, and for securing that it will be available for use, in case of fire."

The section was not intended to confer a right of private action upon a member of the public. The duty propounded in the section was more in the nature of a general administrative function of procurement placed on the fire authority in relation to supply of water for fire-fighting generally. Therefore no action lay for breach of statutory duty under the section.

In the event all the appeals would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Mr Peter Robertson, Winchester; Cameron Markby Hewitt; Barlow Lyde & Gilbert; Hextall Erskine & Co; Mr S. J. F. Starling, Lambeth; Devonshires; Davies Arnold Cooper.

Power to correct banning order

Official Receiver v Hannan and Another

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Waller

[Judgment March 14]

The court had jurisdiction under Order 20, rule 11 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, the slip rule, to correct an imperfect disqualification order made under section 1 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986.

The Court of Appeal so stated dismissing an appeal by the disqualified director, Daniel Peter Hannan, from the decision of Mr Justice Harman made on October 28, 1996 whereby, pursuant to Order 20, rule 11, he corrected the order of Judge Bromley, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Chancery Division made on July 9, 1991, so as fully to accord with section 1 of the 1986 Act.

Mr Hannan was a director of Cannonquest Ltd which was wound up on March 16, 1988 owing creditors £200,000. On November 15, 1989 the Official Receiver brought proceedings against him under the 1986 Act in respect of his conduct of the affairs of the company. The order made by Judge Bromley incorporated only the provisions of section 1(1)(a) and (d).

On October 4, 1995 Mr Hannan was charged with "being a director in contravention of a disqualification order contrary to section 13 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986."

Section 1 of the 1986 Act provides:

"(1) ... a court may ... make against a person a disqualification order, that is to say an order that he shall not, without leave of the court (a) be a director of a company, or (b) be a liquidator or administrator of a company, or (c) be a receiver or manager of a company's property, or (d) in any way, whether directly or indirectly, be concerned to take part in the promotion, formation or management of a company for a specified period beginning with the date of the order."

Mr Alan Newman, QC and Mr Karim Khalil for Mr Hannan; Mr A. W. H. Charles and Mr Malcolm Davis-White for the Official Receiver.

LORD JUSTICE MORRITT said that the appeal raised, inter alia, the issue whether Order 20, rule 11 conferred jurisdiction to make, and if so whether in the exercise of his discretion Mr Justice Harman should have made, the order he did.

Mr Hannan claimed that the judge was wrong both on jurisdiction and on how he should exercise his discretion.

He said that the order as drawn up was not a disqualification order within the meaning of those words in sections 1 and 13 and that to make it one was necessarily retrospective in creating a potential offence after the event.

That was disputed by the Official Receiver, who contended, that, albeit incomplete, the order as drawn up was nevertheless a disqualification order. Further or alternatively, he submitted that jurisdiction to correct the order existed under Order 20, rule 11.

Mr Hannan contended that the order as drawn up was not a disqualification order because of the omission of the capacities in paragraphs (b) and (c) of section 1(1) and that he would be entitled to have it set aside.

His Lordship did not accept that submission. If Mr Hannan applied to have the order set aside it was inconceivable that his application could succeed so as to leave him undisqualified.

There was no doubt that Judge Bromley considered Mr Hannan unfit to be concerned in the management of a company and intended to impose a disqualification for a period of six years. It was not suggested that he was wrong in either of those respects. Thus any perceived irregularity in the order due to the omission of the other two capacities would be met by a further order curing such irregularity by inserting them.

But in any event, the order professed on its face to be a disqualification order made under section 6 of the Act. It seemed to his Lordship that the same principle which required Mr Hannan to obey it unless and until it was set aside also required him to obey it as the disqualification order it was stated and was intended to be.

In the present case, as Mr Justice Harman had observed, once the judge had concluded that Mr Hannan was unfit to be concerned in the management of a company he was obliged by statute to impose a disqualification order as defined in section 1(1). Thus that result must, in law, be treated as his intention.

If, contrary to his Lordship's conclusion, the order did not achieve that result because of the omission of the other two capacities, then that omission must be treated as accidental and might be corrected under Order 20, rule.

Alternatively, if the incomplete order was none the less a disqualification order there was still an accidental omission, for the intention to be ascribed to the judge must be to achieve a disqualification order which was both valid and complete.

Accordingly, his Lordship agreed with Mr Justice Harman that he had jurisdiction to make the order he did.

Solicitors: Mills & Reeve, Cambridge; Treasury Solicitor

Book price protection withdrawn

In re Net Book Agreement 1957 (M and N)

Before Mr Justice Ferris, Mr Barry Colgate and Mr John King

[Judgment March 13]

The Net Book Agreement, by which the prices of books subject to the agreement were fixed, had become contrary to the public interest. Resale price maintenance for books could no longer be upheld.

The Restrictive Practices Court so held discharging on the application of the Director General of Fair Trading under section 4 of the Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1976 and section 17 of the Resale Prices Act 1976 previous orders of the court made in 1962 ([1963] LR 3 RP 246), in 1964 ([1964] LR 4 RP 484) and in 1968 to the effect that restrictions on the resale price of net books was not contrary to the public interest.

Miss Genevra Caws, QC and Mr Jon Turner for the director general; Mr John Calder in person and representing the Calder Educational Trust and Miss Jennifer Glayzer in person and representing the National Acquisitions Group.

MR JUSTICE FERRIS said that by three orders made by the Restrictive Practices Court in the 1960s arrangements under which the resale prices of books and related goods could be maintained by publishers were declared to be, in the public interest.

The agreement was entered into in 1957. There were in fact two separate agreements, one between members of the Publishers Association and the other between certain persons who were not members. The two agreements were identical in all material respects.

The court had been asked under section 4 of the Restrictive Trade Practices Act and section 17 of the Resale Prices Act to discharge its previous orders and to declare that the restriction accepted under the Net Book Agreement was contrary to the public interest and to refuse to declare that books and maps were exempted goods for the purposes of legislation on resale price maintenance. The court's jurisdiction to review and, if appropriate, reverse its own previous and apparently final orders was subject to carefully expressed limitations.

His Lordship had considered preliminary questions of law pursuant to section 7(1) of the Restrictive Practices Court Act 1976 and in a judgment on December 20, 1996 (unreported) had held that applications under sections 4 and 17 both involved two stages.

At the first stage the issue was whether there had indeed been a material change in relevant circumstances. At that stage the burden of proof lay upon the applicant, in this case the director general.

If the court was not satisfied, at the first stage, that there had been a material change in relevant circumstances it would inquire no further. If, however, the court was satisfied of that matter it would proceed to the second stage.

That required consideration of whether, in the circumstances existing at the time of the new hearing, (i) the restriction accepted under the Net Book Agreement was or was not in the public interest having regard to section 10 of the Restrictive Trade Practices Act; and (ii) books and maps ought to be exempted goods for the purposes of the Resale Prices Act having regard to section 14 of that Act.

At that second stage the burden of satisfying the court lay upon those who contended that the restriction was not contrary to the public interest or that the goods should be exempted goods, in this case the respondents.

The court was satisfied that there had been changes in relevant circumstances since the previous orders were made. The most striking change which had occurred was the collapse of the Net Book Agreement.

None of the seven major publishing groups (Reed, Pearson, Harper Collins, Random House, Transworld, Macmillan and Hodder Headline) now published at net prices.

To amount to a material change in the relevant circumstances what was contemplated was "a change in an essential part of the reasoning by which the court reached its previous conclusion": see *Re Cement Makers' Federation Agreement (No 2)* ([1974] ICR 445, 452).

The collapse of the Net Book Agreement undermined the whole of the 1962 reasoning, which was based on the assumption that, if the court upheld the restriction accepted under the agreement, that restriction would be enforced. The present situation was that the restriction in practice had been abandoned by all those who had accepted it.

The possibility that that would happen was inherent in a system which depended upon the agreement of the parties for the continuation of the benefits secured by the agreement.

The collapse of the Net Book Agreement was by itself a material change in the relevant circumstances. Other changes resulting from improvements in printing technology, wholesaling and sale or return terms, electronic stock systems and others were also found to be material.

After reviewing the evidence at the second stage of the inquiry, the burden was on Mr Calder and Miss Glayzer to show that the restriction should be maintained.

The 1962 order was made on the basis that the abrogation of the Net Book Agreement was likely to result in fewer and less well equipped stockholding bookshops, more expensive books and fewer published titles.

The court was not satisfied on the evidence that the abrogation of the Net Book Agreement would now or in the long run result in any of those consequences. None of the conditions specified in any of the "gateways" in section 14 of the Resale Prices Act, which would have justified continued resale price maintenance, were now satisfied.

The previous orders were discharged.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor.

Liability of partner after dissolution

Hurst v Bryk and Others

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Hobhouse

[Judgment February 4]

A partner in a firm of solicitors was discharged from further performance of the partnership contract when he accepted his partners' repudiatory breach.

But that did not absolve him from an obligation to indemnify the trustees of a lease on the partnership premises, in which he had acquired an absolute interest independent of the partnership agreement.

The Court of Appeal so held, Lord Justice Hobhouse dissenting in part, when dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Robert Alfred Hurst, against the dismissal by Mr Justice Carnwath on April 11, 1995 of his action against Raymond Alexander Bryk and 18 other defendants.

Mr Ian Leeming, QC and Mr Gerard Van Tonder for the plaintiff; Mr Philip Hoser for the first to fourth and eleventh to thirteenth defendants; the tenth, fifteenth, eighteenth and nineteenth defendants in person.

LORD JUSTICE PETER GIBSON said the plaintiff and the defendants had been partners in Malkin Janners, a firm of solicitors at 15 King Street, London, WC2. The partnership was formed in 1989 and dissolved 17 months later in 1990.

There were disputes as to work in progress brought in by some partners, as to the way the partnership was terminated and as to the financial and other consequences of the dissolution.

Mr Hurst had claimed an account from the defendants who had counterclaimed for payment by Mr Hurst of his share of the partnership liabilities.

The judge had dismissed Mr Hurst's claim and declared that he was liable for his share of the partnership liabilities, including ongoing liabilities and losses yet to be realised. Those included the rent and other outgoings on the partnership's premises.

The judge found that the defendants had repudiated the partnership contract which had been rescinded by Mr Hurst's acceptance of that repudiation.

The general principle where a party accepted another's repudiation of their contract was that both parties were discharged from further performance, but rights were not divested or discharged which had already been unconditionally acquired.

Rights and obligations arising from the partial execution of the contract and causes of action which had accrued from its breach alike continued unaffected: *Bank of Boston v European Grain Ltd* ([1989] AC 1056, 1089-1099).

The difficulty in the instant case lay in applying that general principle to the dissolution of a partnership caused by acceptance of a repudiatory breach. His Lordship accepted that a purely contractual obligation of the innocent partner could not, consistently with the general principle, be enforced.

What occasioned more difficulty was the treatment of liabilities which had already been incurred by the partners before the termination of the partnership but which had an element of contingency about them so that the creditor did not unconditionally acquire rights before the dissolution of the partnership. Prima facie, the *Bank of Boston* principle would prevent the innocent partner being held liable.

The major issue related to the rent. If the issue had turned solely on whether Mr Hurst could be required to perform his contractual obligations under the partnership agreement to indemnify the four trustees of the lease, his Lordship would have concluded that he could not. But the position was not so simple.

The lease was an asset of the partnership, albeit one with negative value. On becoming a partner Mr Hurst had taken an absolute interest in it of which he was not divested by the termination of the partnership.

The interests of the partnership could not be wound up completely so long as the partnership continued to hold the lease and have obligations under it.

It could not fairly be said that the defendants had chosen to continue to bear the ongoing expense because they considered it prudent and in their own interest to do so. The continuing shortfall was continuing liability of all the former partners.

Mr Hurst's equitable obligation to indemnify the trustees subsisted because his property interest subsisted and was in no way dependent on the subsistence of the partnership, nor was it affected by the way the partnership was terminated.

The general principle of the *Bank of Boston* case had no application to an accrued property right and its concomitant obligation to indemnify the trustees of the lease.

Lord Justice Simon Brown delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Hobhouse delivered a judgment dissenting in part.

Solicitors: Penningtons; Church Adams & Tatham & Co; Reigate.

Decision not binding on other reaches

Bryan and Others v Barton and Another

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Morritt and Sir Iain Glidewell

[Judgment February 11]

A decision that the mooring of a 125ft Dutch barge caused substantial interference with the fishing rights of an angling association over one designated stretch of the River Wye was not conclusive with regard to the mooring of the barge on other stretches of the river where the anglers fished.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an interlocutory appeal by the defendants, Mr Frank Barton and Frank Barton Services Ltd, owners of the barge "The Wye Invader", from a decision of Judge Moseley, QC, sitting as a judge of the Chancery Division at Bristol in March 1996, whereby he had refused to set aside a default judgment ordering the removal of the barge that he had given in July 1995 in favour of the plaintiffs, members and trustees of the Hereford and District Angling Association, holding, inter alia, that the defendants were estopped from raising for a second time the issue of whether the permanent mooring of the barge was a substantial interference with the plaintiffs' fishing rights.

Mr F. Collaco Moraes for the defendants; Mr David Phillips for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE MORRITT said that in 1993 Judge Moseley had ordered Mr Barton to remove the barge from any part of the River Wye coloured yellow on the plan. He had moved it to a nearby stretch of the river coloured blue on the plan but the plaintiffs had considered that that new position also infringed their fishing rights and they had commenced a second action against Mr Barton.

Mr Barton failed to attend and the judge in that second action ordered him to remove it. On Mr Barton's subsequent application to set aside that order the judge said that it had already been decided that the mooring was a substantial interference with the plaintiffs' rights and held that Mr Barton was estopped from raising that same issue again.

For Mr Barton it was argued that the judge was wrong in considering that there was an issue estoppel and that interference on the yellow stretch necessarily constituted interference on the blue stretch.

For the plaintiffs, it was said that Mr Barton had produced no evidence or suggestion that there was an interference with the yellow stretch which would not be bound also to be an interference with the rights of the plaintiffs over all other stretches of the river for which they had fishing rights.

However, there was a real question whether the presence of the barge, moored where it was on the blue stretch, did constitute a substantial interference with the right to fish. That question was one of fact which should be heard and considered after a full trial.

The conclusion of the judge in respect of the yellow stretch was not conclusive with regard to other stretches of the river, either as a matter of law or as a matter of fact. The default judgment should be set aside and the dispute determined after a full trial.

Lord Justice Nourse and Sir Iain Glidewell agreed.

Solicitors: Anthony J. Weston, Hereford; Beaumonts, Hereford.

Creditor bound

In re a Debtor (No 47 of 1996)

A creditor who had voted on a proposal for an individual voluntary arrangement at a creditor's meeting could not avoid being bound thereby, by subsequently claiming that a part of his debt was not ascertained at the date of the meeting, and had not been included in the figure he stated was owed, and that he had therefore not voted in respect of that unascertained part.

Mr Edward Nugee, QC, sitting as a deputy judge in the Chancery Division, so held in a reserved judgment on March 3, on an application by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise for directions under section 263(3) of the Insolvency Act 1986.

HIS LORDSHIP said that it was incumbent on a creditor who wished to vote in respect of his debt to state to the best of his ability the total amount that was owing to him, and, if the value of his debt or of some part of it was not ascertained, to state that fact and to supply the chairman of the meeting with as much information as was available to enable the chairman to put an estimated minimum value upon it.

Applying the reasoning of Mr Justice Knox in *In re Cancol Ltd* ([1996] 1 All ER 37), in his Lordship's judgment, it did not lie in the mouth of a creditor who had put a figure on his debt, albeit one that was stated to be subject to verification, to claim later that he was owed some other debt which he had not included in the figure he had stated and in respect of which he had not voted, and that he was therefore not bound in respect of that other debt, thereby enabling the voluntary arrangement to be frustrated.

Unfit animal defence

Davidson v Strong

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice and Mr Justice Moses

[Judgment January 29]

A person who permitted an unfit animal to be exposed for sale in a market contrary to articles 5 and 20(c) of the Welfare of Animals at Markets Order (SI 1990 No 2628) and section 73 of the Animal Health Act 1981 committed an offence of strict liability.

However, a defendant so charged might rely on the defence of lawful excuse where he could establish that he had not knowingly caused or permitted any such breach of the statutory provisions.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, dismissing an appeal by Mr Robert Davidson by way of case stated from Basildon Justices who had convicted him on a charge brought by RSPCA Inspector Colin Strong, of exposing a sick ewe for sale at Colchester Cattle Market.

Mr David Cocks, QC and Mr Nicholas Elcombe for the defendant; Mr Paul Shadarevian for the RSPCA.

MR JUSTICE MOSES, giving the judgment of the court, said that, in answering the question whether the present offence was one of strict liability, it was important to bear in mind that article 5 required the prosecution to prove that a defendant had knowledge that he was exposing an animal for sale.

But did the article, read as a whole in the context of the order, import the requirement of knowledge that the animal was unfit? The provisions were penal in character so that strict liability would not be imposed unless Parliament clearly intended that it should be: see *Sweet v. Parsley* ([1970] AC 132, 149).

The 1990 Order was clearly designed to regulate conditions in markets for the sale and welfare of animals so exposed and the draftsman in article 20, following section 73 of the 1981 Act, provided a defence of lawful excuse, with the onus on a defendant, on the balance of probability, to show that he reasonably believed the relevant animal was fit.

Such a construction promoted the purposes of the 1981 Act and the 1990 Order. It was not unduly harsh to expose a defendant to liability and leave the onus on him to establish that defence.

Solicitors: Thompson Smith & Puxon, Colchester; Marshall Sutton Jones, Colchester.

Scots Law Report March 20 1997 House of Lords

Entitlement to benefit repayments after bankruptcy

Mulvey v Secretary of State for Social Security

Before Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Mustill, Lord Slynn of Hadley and Lord Lloyd of Berwick

[Speeches March 13]

The Secretary of State for Social Security was entitled, after the petitioner's sequestration for bankruptcy, to continue to make deductions in respect of previous repayable awards from income support benefit payments made to her.

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by the petitioner, Mrs Rena Mulvey, from the First Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session (Lord President Hope, Lord Allanbridge and Lord Clyde) (1996 SLT 229) who on October 25, 1995 had allowed the secretary of state's reclaiming motion from the interlocutor of the Lord Ordinary (Lord Abernethy) (1995 SLT 1064) on November 18, 1994 pronouncing the declarator sought by the petitioner that the secretary of state was not entitled to make the deductions.

Mr Jonathan Mitchell, QC and Mr Andrew Webster for the petitioner; Mr Matthew Clarke, QC and Mr Gordon Liddle for the secretary of state.

LORD JAUNCEY said that the petitioner had been sequestrated, pursuant to the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 1985, on February 3, 1993.

The social fund consisted of limited sums paid into it from time to time by the secretary of state under section 167(3) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 and was intended to be recycled at least in part so that awards might thereafter be repaid for the benefit of others in need.

Payments out of it were regulated by Part III of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992. Section 138(1) of the latter Act provided for payments to be awarded out of the social fund to meet needs. Section 139(1) provided that a social fund officer might determine that an award was to be repayable.

Section 78 of the Administration Act provided:

"(1) A social fund award which is repayable shall be recoverable by the secretary of state.

"(2) Without prejudice to any other method of recovery, the secretary of state may recover an award by deduction from prescribed benefits."

Income support benefit was a prescribed benefit.

The petitioner argued that the deductions from her income support benefit after sequestration amounted to an attempt to set off a pre-sequestration debt against a post-sequestration obligation, which was impermissible at common law.

The rule as to compensation or set-off in bankruptcy was stated in *Goudy, A Treatise on the Law of Bankruptcy in Scotland* (4th edition (1914) pp 554-555).

When that had been written, shortly after the Bankruptcy (Scotland) 1913, income accruing to a debtor after the date of sequestration generally fell under the sequestration. Section 32(1) of the 1985 Act now vested in the debtor income received by her after the date of sequestration that was not derived from the estate vested in the trustee.

The petitioner's entitlement to income support benefit was rendered inalienable by statute, from which it followed that the corresponding obligation of the secretary of state to make payment of it was not and could not be owed to the trustee. His relationship was solely with the petitioner.

Not only did section 32(1) of the 1985 Act vest the benefit when received in the petitioner but, more importantly, section 187(1) of the Administration Act provided "... on the bankruptcy of a beneficiary, [income support benefit] shall not pass to any trustee or any other person acting on behalf of his creditors".

The purpose of that provision had been to make clear beyond peradventure that the trustee could have no interest in any entitlement of a debtor to receive any of the social security benefits to which it applied.

The principle purpose of the rule referred to in *Goudy* was, as there explained, to prevent a creditor obtaining a preferential advantage over other creditors and thereby diminishing the assets that would otherwise be available for equitable distribution.

That in turn presupposed that what was being retained by the creditor was something that would otherwise form part of the estate to be ingathered by the trustee.

The only provision in the 1985 Act that was said to prevent continued deductions under section 78(2) of the Administration Act was section 32(5), but that applied only to income received by the debtor and the deductions made by the secretary of state had never been received.

Second, by no stretch of the imagination could the secretary of state's exercise of his statutory right be described as "diligence" for the purposes of the law of Scotland.

To apply the common law rule of concursus debiti et crediti to the secretary of state's right to make deductions would be to apply it for a purpose, the personal benefit to the petitioner, for which it had never been intended.

The deductions had not been as in the normal case of bankruptcy a result of the bankruptcy but had been made in pursuance of a statutory scheme already in operation at the time of sequestration and with which the trustee could have no concern.

Prior to sequestration the petitioner had had no right to receive by way of income support benefit more than her gross entitlement after the deduction.

The secretary of state's continued exercise of a statutory power of deduction after sequestration had been unrelated to the sequestration and had not been calculated to obtain a benefit for him at the expense of other creditors.

The only person who had had any realistic interest in the deductions had been the petitioner, from which it followed that the secretary of state was not seeking to exercise any right against the trustee.

His exercise of his statutory power did not amount to compensation or set-off for the purposes of the application of the rule: compare *Bradley-Hole v Cusen* ([1953] 1 QB 300).

Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Mustill, Lord Slynn and Lord Lloyd agreed.

Solicitors: Hodge Jones & Allen for Erskine MacAskill & Co, Edinburgh for Naftalin Duncan & Co, Glasgow; Treasury Solicitor for Solicitor in Scotland to Secretary of State for Social Security.

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CHANGING TIMES



THEATRE 1

Wilde thing: Simon Callow reveals his versatility in *The Importance of Being Oscar*



THEATRE 2

Poe-faced: *The Fall of the House of Usherettes* gives a farcical twist to a famous tale

THE TIMES ARTS



CHOICE 1

Ben Elton's Hollywood satire, *Popcorn*, comes to the West End

VENUE: Now in preview at the Apollo



CHOICE 2

Dawn French is among the cast of a new revue, *Then Again . . .*

VENUE: Now in preview, Lyric, Hammersmith

THEATRE: Fine revival of MacLiammóir's Wilde tribute; multimedia madness; unsexy erotica

Everything but callow

This could have been an evening of incense and high devotion. After all, Simon Callow tells us in the programme that he has adored Oscar Wilde since he was 13 and, as he was revealing in these pages a few days ago, he got to know and admire Micheál MacLiammóir at the time his hair was turning lacquer-black from advancing age.

But Callow's delivery of the tribute to Wilde that the Irish actor started touring round the world in 1960 strikes me as exemplary: unsentimental, lucid, lively, absorbing.

Callow steps on to a stage furnished with cream chairs, tables and books, wearing a dark purple suit and an open-necked white shirt above which a grey-white beard is neatly curled. He looks less like Wilde than a younger Paul Scofield playing a distinguished variety of plum.

But then *The Importance of Being Oscar* does not follow current fashion, for it is couched in the third person, not the first. Only when Callow launches into *De Profundis* and *The Ballad of Reading Gaol* are we meant to feel we are hearing Wilde himself, instead of listening to his story and extracts from his works.

For me, that letter and that poem were the high, or maybe the deep, points of the evening at the Savoy Theatre. The first is not without its self-pity and bitterness, but Callow convinces you that Wilde learnt the meaning of grief, sympathy and charity within those dank prison walls. And when he comes to the moment in the *Ballad* when the wife-murderer is hanged, and "through all the gaol there rose a wail of impotent despair", he makes you hear and feel that sound.

There is a gravity about both items that contradicts the view of Wilde either as a frivolous poseur or (which is more common these days) as a wonderfully exotic decadent.

The evening starts with Wilde's decision to leave the "conversationally competitive" dinner tables of Dublin for London, takes him briefly to America, and soon moves to disaster in the form of the frightful Bosie. The trial itself passes in the interval, between arrest and judgment, maybe because the Lord Chamberlain would not permit MacLiammóir to repeat the evidence, maybe because "feasting with panthers" was actually a sad, sordid business, somewhat akin to Tom Driberg's compulsive cottaging. The impression left, though, is more of tact than evasion, for the evening's aim is clearly to humanise rather than idealise Wilde.

The script occasionally gets florid ("joyous noonday of his lily and sunflower") and becomes a bit plonking when it tackles cultural history. But MacLiammóir did well to shun the famous *bons mots* for lesser-known ones, such as London fog being nature's botched attempt to mimic the art of the French Impressionists, or sentimentality being "merely the Bank Holiday of cynicism". He also allows the actor Callow the chance to show what that fine, flexible voice of his can do.

Actually, he is not a terrific Lady Bracknell — she sounds thin and shrill, not solid and formidable — but he does bring Jack Worthing, Algy and Algy's sepulchral butler and grumpy father enjoyably to life. He also leaves you shivering at Dorian Gray's last-gasp transformation into a raddled, withered monster. Those who enter the Savoy thinking there's only one Callow will leave knowing there are several.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Simon Callow: humanising rather than idealising the genius of Oscar Wilde

The Importance of Being Oscar
Savoy

Schlocky horror show

The Fall of the House of Usherettes
Lyric, Hammersmith

THE TITLE is terrific, and just right for Forkbeard Fantasy's weird creative style in which live action is spliced with film, in this case to tell the nonsensical tale of Roderick de Usherette and his sisters, the offspring of a pioneer film-maker, whose secret they guard in the vaults of an ancient cinema.

Several sequences are daft enough or deft enough to raise an appreciative smile, but forbearance is needed to pass through the intervening stuff, which relies on audience tolerance of a peculiarly British style: the apparently amateurish. Eccentric but nimble artists want to suggest they are achieving their effects against all odds and only just succeeding.

Peculiar mechanical effects are generally part of the enterprise, and are provided in *Usherettes* by the impressive fate of the great caryatids on either side of the screen, Gog and Mrs Gog, and the elevation of the screen itself. It is a joyfully absurd moment when the grim sisters pump air into a long tube and the screen takes shape like a silvery manta ray rising from the abyss.

Deep in the vaults of the Empire Cinema, lone surviving building in an abandoned city, lie vats of liquid film. The properties of this wonder-material are never precisely shared with us, but it enables movies to be stored in bottles and can trap people in loops of film where they endlessly run down the same corridor and are hit on the head.

The founders of Forkbeard, Chris and Tim Britton, have developed the art of darting behind a screen on the stage and into a previously shot film. A live actor will carry on an argument with someone in the film, even with himself, which happens a lot in *Usherettes* because three actors play five characters.

Britton T plays Earlobe, a tomb-robber from the National Film Archive, Britton C is the dithering Roderick, and together with Ed Jobling they play the three Usherette sisters, crones with hairstyles like burnt cottage loaves.

The cartoon sequences are ingenious, as is the joke of a rotating projecting room. The sets and general design (by Penny Saunders) make clutter an art form, and John Tellett's direction presumably added elements of cohesion to the general lunacy.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Lust loses its lustre

Raw Women and Cooked Men
Croydon Warehouse

MUSIC pounds and six beglittered, beauty-spotted creatures in crumpled brocade and imitation silk preen and strut for us. The three men and three women look like degenerate Harlequins and Columbines. Suddenly the music stops and these exotic creatures turn back into the giggly touring actors they are: rococo eroticism meets Croydon on a Thursday night.

Under the direction of Firenza Guidi, a young Italian director, the company explore the theme of seduction — but the piece is a teasing collection of titbits rather than a fully satisfying, rigorous exploration. Furtively lit by bedside lamps, the performers voice their desires for each other, their extended metaphors becoming sillier and sillier.

The problem with all this is that other people's generalised desire is banal in the telling, and quoting chunks of Roland Barthes's *Fragments of a Lover's Discourse* cannot disguise the fact. Various tableaux ensue, and the performers play with the boundaries between a base, contemporary expression of lust and a more highfalutin aesthetic.

Each of the performers has physical skills, and David Murray stands out as an *authentically unsettling* figure. But while the constant return to the ridiculous sides of human sexuality undercut pretentiousness, it seems an error to seriously produce a meditation on desire which cannot take desire itself seriously.

CLARE BAYLEY

LONDON

THE BERLIN OF GEORGE GROSZ The first exhibition of the graphic artist's work to be shown in Britain since 1962 includes watercolours, drawings and prints, made between 1912 and 1930 **Royal Academy of Arts**, Piccadilly, W1 (0171-439 7438) Opens today Then daily, 10am-6pm Until June 8

ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA The outstanding percussionist Evelyn Glennie joins the orchestra for *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel*, James Macmillan's "musical exploration on the theme of liberation from fear anguish and oppression" Music by Britten and Busoni, Saint-Saëns and de Falla completes the programme The conductor is Stefan Asbury **Barbican**, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891) Tonight, 7.30pm

POPCORN Ben Elton's blistering comedy about movie violence A Tarantinoesque director gets his comeuppance when a couple of serial killers (great playing by Patrick O'Kane and Dena Davis) blame him for their misdeeds Laurence Boswell directs **Apollo**, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) Previews, begin tonight, 8pm Opens April 10, 7pm Then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed 3pm Sat, 4pm

THEN AGAIN . . . A new Lyric Revue, drawing on the sharper items from years gone by, plus fresh material Neil Bartlett directs Desmond Barrit, Dawn French, Sheila Hancock and Neil Mullarkey, with John Gould at the piano **Lyric**, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311) Previews begin tonight, 7.30pm Opens March 27

ELSEWHERE

GLASGOW Thomas Dausgaard conducts the **Royal Scottish National Orchestra** in Lutoslawski's *Chain 3*, Szymanowski's sensuous settings of Persian poetry — Symphony No 3, *Song of the Night* (Adrian Thompson, tenor) — and Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony With the RSNO Chorus **Royal Concert Hall**, Buchanan Street (0141-287 5511) Tonight, 7.30pm

NORWICH **The Prostitutes' Padre**, musical play by David Wright and David Wood, telling the strange but true story of the Rector of Stiffkey, publicly defrocked in Norwich Cathedral in 1932 Henry Burke directs Jimmy Thompson in the lead role. **Playhouse**, Gun Wharf, St George's Street (01603 766466) Opens tonight, 8pm Then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm Until April 5.

PLYMOUTH **From a Jack to a King** follows in the cosmic footsteps of its sister show, the Olivier Award-winning musical, *Return to the Forbidden Planet* The uproariously energetic mix of Shakespeare's Macbeth and rock 'n' roll hits of the 1950s begins touring under the direction of Bob Carlton. **Theatre Royal**, Royal Parade (01752 267222). Previews tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm, Sat, 5pm and 8.30pm. Opens March 24, 7.30pm Then Tue-Thur, 7.30pm Fri and Sat, 5pm and 8.30pm. Until March 29 Then in **Brighton**, Theatre Royal (01273 328488), April 7-12; **Dartford**, Orchard (01322 220000), April 14-19

LONDON GALLERIES

Camden Arts Centre: Parsons(nine)s (0171-435 2643) . **Christopher Hull** Zoe Benbow: Recent Paintings (0171-235 0500) . **Dover Street**: Kate Malone (0171-409 1540) **Grosvenor**: Four British Artists (0171-629 0891) . **Harriet Green** "Fired": Contemporary Print in Ceramics (0171-287 8328) . **London International Gallery of Children's Art**: A Festival of Seasons: Celebrating Greece Through Children's Eyes (0171-431 1200) **October**: Elisabeth Lalouschek: New Works (0171-242 7357) **Portland**: Nina Murdoch, Mary Anne Ayroun-Ellis (0171-321 0422) . **Redfern**: William Gear: A Golden Jubilee Exhibition (0171-734 1732) **Tate**: Lucano Fabro (0171-887 8000) . **Theo Waddington**: John Lessore (0171-494 1584)

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

ART David Hare, Anton Lesser, Mark Williams take over from the original cast in this interesting drama about friendship, unspoken resentment and an almost all-white painting. **Wyndham's**, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736) Tue-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm, Sat and Sun 5pm.

ATTEMPTS ON HER LIFE: Further structural changes at the theatre for Tim Albery's ambitious staging of a new Martin Crimp play: a mosaic of scenes building into a post-modernist portrait of a modern woman. **Royal Court Circle and Stage, Ambassadors**, West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Sat, 4pm

THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHERETTES Forkbeard Fantasy's comic hit returns: crazy doings in a crumbling fleapit inhabited by three gruesome crones and their feeble brother. Enjoyably barmy stuff **Lyric Theatre Studio**, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4.30pm (No perfs March 28, 29, 31) Until April 5.

IVANOV: Ralph Fiennes heads a splendid cast that includes Harriet Walter and Oliver Ford Davies, in Jonathan Kent's excellent production of Chekhov's first produced play **Almeida**, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sat, 3pm Until April 5

THE SCHOOL FOR WIVES: Peter Bowles both touching and comic as Molière's deluded hero. Eric Sykes excellent as his flicker-fingered servant **Piccadilly**, Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm, and Sat, 5pm

SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE: Subtitled "The Songs of Leiber and Stoller". Hit Broadway compilation show **Prince of Wales**, Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5987) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE Jessica Lange, Toby Stephens, Imogen Stubbs in *adroit production by Peter Hall* Try to forget the film. **Theatre Royal**, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm. Until March 22

THREE HOURS AFTER MARRIAGE: Eighteenth-century comedy by Gay, Pope and Arbuthnot; laboured comic effects do not increase the jollity but there are funny moments **Pit, Barbican**, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891) Tonight, 7.15pm, mat, 2pm in rep.

WAKING: Soho Theatre Co's first production at their new premises (still being built) Lin Coghlan's play set in an Irish heatwave exacerbating the tensions between three generations of a family. Directed by Abigail Morris. **Soho Theatre Company** at 21 Dean Street, W1 (0171-420 0022) Mon-Sat, 8pm. Until March 29

WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF HRT: Marie Jones and Eileen Pollock. In love with Daniel O'Donnell. Hit Irish comedy but their daydreams are a bit obvious, somehow. **Vaudeville**, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only
Some seats available
Seats at all prices

LONG RUNNERS

Cats: New London (0171-405 0072) **Grease**: Cambridge (0171-494 5080) **An Inspector Calls**: Garrick (0171-494 5085) . **Jesus Christ Superstar**: Lyceum (0171-656 1807) **Martin Guerre**: Prince Edward (0171-447 5400) . . **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909) **Miss Saigon**: Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) . . . **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (0171-836 1443) . . **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) . . **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (0171-344 0055) . . **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

NEW RELEASES

THE ENGLISH PATIENT (15): Map-making Ralph Fiennes smoulders with passion for Kristin Scott Thomas. Epic, intelligent, though not quite worth all the praise. Director, Anthony Minghella. **Barbican** (0171-638 8891) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **Gate** (0171-727 4043) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Plaza** (0990-888 990) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen on Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen on the Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990-888 990) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

THE EVENING STAR (15): Maudlin sequel to *Terms of Endearment*, with Shirley MacLaine, Bill Paxton and Juliette Lewis Director, Robert Harling. **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Virgin Haymarket** (0171-839 1527)

MOTHER NIGHT (15): American writer in Nazi Germany gets into trouble Absorbing adaptation of Kurt Vonnegut's novel, with Nick Nolte. Director, Keith Gordon. **Curzon Phoenix** (0171-369 1721) **Metro** (0171-437 0757)

NEVER TALK TO STRANGERS (18) Tame erotic thriller directed, surprisingly, by Peter Hall, with Rebecca DeMornay and Antonio Banderas. **Virgin Trocadero** (0171-434 0031)

CURRENT

BLOOD AND WINE (15). Seedy adventures of wine merchant Jack Nicholson. Stylish potboiler from director Bob Rafelson. **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

FIERCE CREATURES (PG) Broad comedy in an English zoo, from John Cleese and *A Fish Called Wanda* team With Kevin Kline, Jamie Lee Curtis Director, Robert Young **Empire** (0990-888 990) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031)

IRMA VEP: Hong Kong star gets in deep water shooting a French film Playful oddity from director Olivier Assayas, with Maggie Cheung **Everyman** (0171-435 1525) **ICA Cinema** (0171-930 3647)

JERRY MAGUIRE (15): A sports PR agent gets a conscience Enjoyable, if overlong comedy, with Oscar-nominated Tom Cruise **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Empire** (0990 888990) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

MARS ATTACKS! (12) Tim Burton's aggressively silly and star-studded spoof of the alien invasion movie. With Jack Nicholson, Glenn Close, Annette Bening, Pierce Brosnan and Danny DeVito **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Notting Hill Coronet** (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

THE PORTRAIT OF A LADY (12): Jane Campion's icily elegant adaptation of Henry James, with Nicole Kidman as the independent American sucked into a marriage in Europe **ABC Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Lumière** (0171-836 0691) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Hill** (0171-435 3366) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (24hr) **ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA** Tom't 7.00 (LAST PERF) **FIGARO'S WEDDING** Tomor 8.00 **ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE**

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000 for Box Office & Standby info Tickets available on the day **The Royal Opera** Tom't 7.30 (Last Night) **TOSCA** *Tomor, Mon 5.00* **DIE MEISTERSINGER VON NÜRNBERG** **The Royal Ballet** Sat (First Night), Tue, Wed 7.30 **LA BAYADÈRE**

THEATRES

ADELPHI **ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S** SUNSET BOULEVARD Starring **PETULA CLARK** 24HR CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS CALL 344 0055 (bkg fee) GRP BOOKING 413 3302 (bkg fee) No booking fee for Adelphi Box Office Callers Recorded information 0171 379 8884 Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00 **MUST CLOSE 5TH APRIL**

ALBERY THEATRE BO & cc 0171 369 1730 cc 344 4444, 312 5088 (No fees) Grps 413 3321, 312 5089, 436 5588. *Previews from 14 April.* Opens 17 April **GARY WILMOT** **ANN CRUMB** in THE GOODBYE GIRL A New Musical Book by Neil Simon, Music by Marvin Hamlisch, Lyrics by David Zippel, Additional lyrics by Don Black Eves Mon-Fri 8pm, Wed Mat 3pm, Sats 5 & 8.30pm

ALDWYCH 0171 416 6007/ 420 0000 (24 hrs/no bkg fee) Groups 0171 416 6075 **MICHAEL GAMBON** **ALEC McCOWEN** TOM & CLEM a new play by **STEPHEN CHURCHETT** Directed by **RICHARD WILSON** Red. Price Prevs from 9 Apr Opens 14 April at 7.00pm Eves 7.30, Wed & Sat mats 3

THEATRES

ALDWYCH 0171 416 6003. cc bkg fee 344 4444 Grps 0800 614 903 **DIANA RIGG** **DAVID SUCHET** in EDWARD ALBEE'S **WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF** Dir by Howard Davies "A MAJOR THEATRICAL EVENT" Std **Mon-Sat 7.15pm Sat Mat 2.15pm** **LAST WEEK MUST END SAT**

To advertise in ENTERTAINMENTS Tel: 0171 680 6222 or fax: 0171 481 9313

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6055 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 Grps 416 6075/413 3321 **Andrew Lloyd Webber's** STARLIGHT EXPRESS **THE FASTEST SHOW ON EARTH** Whse knuckle runs 19 45 daily Tue & Sat 3pm Tickets from £12.50 **Extra Mat Thurs 3 April**

APOLLO 24hr cc 0171 494 5070, cc 0171 344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 494 5454 BEN ELTON'S POPCORN Previews From tomorrow

CAMBRIDGE *494 5080/416 6060* 344 4444/420 0000 (+ bkg fee) Groups 494 5454 416 6075/413 3321/436 5588 GREASE **"A Monster Hit"** D Mirror Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Wed & Sat mat 3pm **SHANE RICHIE RETURNS AS DANNY FROM 7 APRIL FOR A LIMITED SEASON** **GREASE NOW BKG INTO 1998!**

COMEDY THEATRE 0171 369 1731/*0171 344 4444* **"ASTOUNDING ORIGINALITY"** Daily Mail **"A great flight of imagination"** Daily Telegraph Rob Morrow in "BIRDY" **"A reason to rejoice"** Times **"ENTHRALLING"** Std **"Blazingly Alive"** FT **Time Out Critics' Choice** Live the Dream Mon-Sat 8pm, Thur mat 3pm Sat mat 5pm **Limited number of tickets available at £9.50 on the day.**

CRITERION 369 1737/344 4444 **BEST COMEDY** Laurence Olivier Award Nominee REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY in **THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (abridged)** All 37 Plays in 97 Minutes **"Hilarious"** Times Mats Thur at 3, Sat at 5 *Sun at 4, Eves at 8pm* **THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA (abridged)** Tuesday at 8pm **IN ITS 2ND HILARIOUS YEAR!**

DOMINION 0171 656 1865/0990 204020/420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 416 6096/312 1997/ 0800 614903 **The Magic comes alive on stage** **DISNEY'S** BEAUTY AND THE BEAST **A NEW MUSICAL** Prevs from Apr 29 now booking

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL SS cc (Bkg fee) 24hr 7 days 0171 494 5000/344 4444/420 0000 Grps 494 5454/413 3311/312 8000 MISS SAIGON **"THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY** *OF OUR TIME"* **NOW IN ITS 8TH EXTRAORDINARY YEAR!** Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm **Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs - apply B.O. FOR TELEPHONE/POSTAL BOOKINGS & PERSONAL CALLERS** *0171 494 5060 (BKG FEE)*

DUCHESS BO/cc 0171 494 5075 (no bkg fee) cc 0171 344 4444/ 420 0000 (bkg fee) **Royal Shakespeare Company** THE *HERBAL BED* By Peter Whelan "A love story a courtroom drama and a moral thriller **ONE OF THE BEST NEW PLAYS THE RSC HAS PRODUCED**" S Times FROM 10 APRIL 13 WEEKS ONLY

To advertise in ENTERTAINMENTS Tel: 0171 680 6222 or fax: 0171 481 9313

DUCHESS BO/cc 0171 494 5075 (no bkg fee) cc 0171 344 4444/420 0000 (with bkg fee) MAUREEN LIPMAN LIVE & KIDDING **"Is non-stop entertainment... awesome"** FT **"very funny...a riot"** Ind Eves 8pm Mats Sat 3pm LIMITED SEASON - 5 APRIL

FORTUNE BO & CC *0171 836 2238/312 8033* **EWAN HOOPER** **JAMES SIMMONS** Susan Hill's THE WOMAN IN BLACK Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt **"The most thrilling and chilling play for years"** *D Mail* **NOW IN ITS 8TH YEAR** Mon-Sat 8pm Mats Tues, 3pm Sat 4pm **Running time 2hrs**

GARRICK 0171 494 5085/312 1990 (no bkg fee) Groups 0171 494 5454 **WINNER OF 19 MAJOR AWARDS** **The Royal National Theatre Production** **PIP DONAGHY** **SUZANNE BERTISH** **BARRY STANTON** JB Priestley's AN INSPECTOR CALLS **"THRILLING...MUST BE SEEN"** D Mail **"TWO HOURS OF ENTHRALLING, VISUALLY** *STUNNING DRAMA"D Tel* Mon-Fri 7.45, Sat 5.00 & 8.15, Wed mat 2.30

GIELGUD 0171 494 5557/ *420 0000* Grps 494 5454/420 0200 ROMANCE, ROMANCE **Two New Musicals** So good they named it twice" D Tel Eves 8pm Mats Thur & Sat 3pm

HER MAJESTY'S 24hr 494 5400 (bkg fee) CC 344 4444/420 0000 (fee) Grps 494 5454/413 3311/436 5588 **ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL** THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Directed by HAROLD PRINCE **NOW BKG TO DEC 97** Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 Apply to Box Office daily for returns

HAYMARKET 930 8800 (no bkg fee) 344 4444/420 0000 (with bkg fee) Mon-Sat 7.45pm Mats Thur & Sat 3pm JESSICA LANGE **"MAGNIFICENT"** NotW **TOBY STEPHENS** **IMOGEN STUBBS** Tennessee Williams' **A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE** SOLD OUT - QUEUE FOR RETURNS * * * FROM TUE FOR 10 WEEKS ONLY **OSCAR WILDE'S CLASSIC COMEDY** LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN **ALL SEATS £9.00 TUE 25 MAR** 26-31 MAR - 2 FOR PRICE OF 1 OPENS 1 APRIL AT 7PM

LABATT'S APOLLO, 0171 416 6050/420 0000/344 4444 (fee) 416 6075/436 5588 (grps, fee) CLIFF RICHARD in HEATHCLIFF **'Spectacular, stunning'** D Mail Some seats avail in April Mon - Sat 8pm

To advertise in ENTERTAINMENTS Tel 0171 680 6222 or fax 0171 481 9313

LONDON PALLADIUM BO/CC *0171 494 5020/344 4444 (£1.50 serv chg)* 420 0000 Grps 0171 494 5454 **ROBERT LINDSAY** **BEST ACTOR IN A MUSICAL** **Laurence Olivier Awards** **"ROBERT LINDSAY'S FAGIN IS FULL OF CHARM, WARMTH & GLEEFUL CRIMINALITY. HE'S A HOOT"** D Exp IN OLIVER! **3RD IRREPRESSIBLE YEAR** **"LIONEL BART'S MASTERPIECE YOU CAN'T ASK FOR MORE"** S Times Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30 **SOME GOOD SEATS AVAIL NOW FOR WEEKDAY PERFS**

LYRIC Shaftesbury Ave 0171 494 5045 (no bkg fee)/344 4444 (bkg fee) *Previews from 3 Apr Opens 8 Apr* Eves 7.45 Wed & Sat mats 3pm SIAN PHILLIPS *simply brilliant as* **PAM GEMS'** MARLENE Directed by **SEAN MATHIAS**

LYCEUM cc 0171 656 1806 0990 500 800/344 4444/420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 416 6078 **TIM RICE & ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S** JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR **"Sends Shivers Racing Down The Spine"** D Telegraph Eves 7.45. Mats Wed & Sat 3 (no bkg fee for personal callers at the Lyceum box office 10am-8pm). £15 tickets for students avail Mon-Thu are bookable in advance. **Now booking to September** Some seats avail at door Mon - Thu

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 0171 928 2252 Grps 0171 620 0741, 24hr cc bkg fee 0171 420 0000 Please allow extra journey/parking time because of major roadworks. OLIVIER Ton't, Tomor 7.15 **GUYS AND DOLLS** Music and lyrics by Frank Loesser Book by Jo Swerling & Abe Burrows. LYTTELTON Ton't, Tomor 7.30 THE HOMECOMING Harold Pinter Ton't 6.00 **PLATFORM: NINA BAWDEN.** COTTESLOE Tomor 7.00 (PREVIEW) **KING LEAR** William Shakespeare.

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 0171 405 0072 CC 0171 404 4079 24hr 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Grps 0171 413 3311/436 5588 THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/ T S ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL CATS Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00 LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION, PLEASE BE PROMPT Bars open at 6.45 **LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL. DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE.**

PALACE THEATRE 0171-434 0909 cc 24hrs (bkg fee) 0171-344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 413 3311 **THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL** LES MISERABLES **NOW IN ITS 12TH RECORD-BREAKING YEAR** Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30 Latecomers not admitted until the interval LIMITED NO OF SEATS AVAIL. DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE .

OLD VIC *0171 928 7616 24hrs* 420 0000 (no bkg fee) The Peter Hall Company **12 Plays in Repertory** **7 days a week** **WASTE** by Harley Granville Barker **"A terrific production of a marvellously rich play. Hall's new regime couldn't have got off to a better start"** D Tel Sat 22nd at 7.30pm **CLOUD NINE** by Caryl Churchill Ton't & Tomor 7.30pm Today & Sat 2.30pm **HURLYBURLY** by David Rabe Sun & Mon 7.30pm Tickets £10-£19

PHOENIX BO/CC 0171 369 1733 *344 4444/420 0000* (fee) BEST MUSICAL Olivier/Drama Awards *Plays & Players/Ivor Novello Awards* **WILLY RUSSELL'S** BLOOD BROTHERS **...Brings the audience to its feet, and roaring its approval"** D Mail **10TH TRIUMPHANT YEAR** Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3pm Sat 4pm **NOW BOOKING UNTIL JAN'98**

PICCADILLY 0171 369 1734 344 4444/420 0000 (24 hrs) Eves 8, Mats Wed 3 & Sat 5 **THE PETER HALL COMPANY** **PETER BOWLES** **CARMEN SILVERA** **HENRY McGEE** **ERIC SYKES** in Molière's hilarious comedy THE SCHOOL FOR WIVES **"POSITIVELY GLITTERING... THIS IS AS GOOD AS IT GETS"** D.Mail

PRINCE OF WALES 0171 839 5987 First Call 420 0000 cc 344 4444 Grps 420 0200 freephone 0800 614903 **"HOT FROM BROADWAY, AND I MEAN SMOKIN', ENOUGH ENERGY TO ELECTRIFY A CITY."** D Mail **GRAMMY AWARD WINNING MUSICAL** SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE *THE SONGS OF LEIBER & STOLLER* Directed by Jerry Zaks **"AMERICAN GRAFFITI MEETS WEST SIDE STORY"** E. Std. Mon-Sat 8pm, Thu & Sat Mats 3pm **REDUCED PRICE THURS MAT** **NOW BOOKING TO JAN 1998**

PRINCE EDWARD *0171 447 5400* First Call 420 0100 cc 344 4444 Groups 420 0200 **WINNER BEST CHOREOGRAPHER** BEST NEW MUSICAL **LAURENCE OLIVIER AWARDS** **"REAL POWER & PASSION** *A BLOCKBUSTER"* D Tel **"A BIG MAGNIFICENT EPIC MUSICAL. A GREAT EVENING OUT"** S Times MARTIN GUERRE **BOUBLIL & SCHONBERG'S "MUSICAL MASTERPIECE"** Int Her Trib *Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00* **NOW BOOKING TO JAN 1998**

QUEENS Bo cc 0171 494 5040 cc 344 4444 Grps 494 5454 PATTI LuPONE IN MASTERCLASS by TERRENCE McNALLY **Previs 18 April, Opens 6 May**

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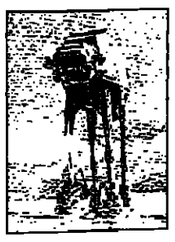
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■ FILM 1

Topped up with more special effects, *Star Wars* returns to work its naive enchantment again



■ FILM 2

Basketball star Michael Jordan meets a bunch of cartoon characters: it adds up to the inane *Space Jam*

THE TIMES

ARTS



■ FILM 3

Richard Harris and Stephen Rea deliver Billy Roche's fine script with panache in *Trojan Eddie*



■ TOMORROW

Pop on Friday has an interview with fast-rising Mindy McReady, and reviews of all the top new albums

CINEMA: **Geoff Brown** on *Star Wars*, repackaged for a whole new buying public



Thanks to the miracle of computer imagery, Jabba the Hutt leaps from the third of the *Star Wars* trilogy to the first. Harrison Ford is unimpressed

Sales force is with us

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, Harrison Ford was considered sexy. He sported blow-dried hair, a teasingly unbuttoned shirt, and an unlined face that actually smiled. A long time ago robots resembled household appliances — a vacuum cleaner crossed, say, with a washing machine — and were benign enough to be affectionately called "that malfunctioning little twerp". Mark Hamill defended the universe with a Californian surfer's shaggy mane and bubblegum brain, while Carrie Fisher, deposed princess of a galactic republic, appeared to wear bagels on the sides of her head.

None of the above has changed in **Star Wars**, the Special Edition. George Lucas may have used digital technology to erase imperfections and add new footage, but the bulk of this movie milestone looks the same as it always did, dotty hairstyles and all. In 1977, *Star Wars* ran for 121 minutes. Now it runs for 125, and the value of those extra minutes lies far more in their use as a marketing hook than in any artistic achievement.

What has changed, of course, is the way we ourselves perceive the space adventures of Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, Princess Leia and the other creatures of Lucas's imagination. Twenty years ago, Lucas was creating a new kind of spectacle that viewed old-style Saturday morning serial thrills through sophisticated adult eyes. He created a cinema of deliberate naivety, and helped to establish the fashion for high-speed blockbuster movies dominated more by special effects than actors' flesh and blood.

But there is still an enormous gulf between then and now. Compared to the films it spawned, *Star Wars* appears gleamingly clean and wholesome. No slobbering, pulsating mutants hog the screen: even the most villainous characters, such as Peter Cushing's Grand Moff Tarkin and his sidekick, Darth Vader, are tidily dressed. There is an old-fashioned concern for morality, for the rights and wrongs of capturing a planet and establishing an evil empire. Current Hollywood films are more concerned with the vigilante ethos, and the glorification of revenge.

What modern special effects bonanza would embrace a quasi-religious concept like "the Force", the spirit that guided the space knights of old before the imperial forces exerted their grip? There is no room in *Independence Day* for a guru such as Alec Guinness's Obi-Wan Kenobi, who offers wise, twinkling words to Hamill's Skywalker. Now there are no wise words from anyone.

But *Star Wars* is still a film that can leave you twiddling your thumbs if your mind is not cocked at a certain angle. You must prepare to be a child again, or at least an arrested adolescent; otherwise, once the situation is set up and the battle lines drawn, monotony might set in so fiercely that no number of laser-beam duels, strafing spaceships and exploding planets will rouse you.

But what of the new or doctored footage? The space port of Mos Eisley, previously as bustling as Market Harborough, now boasts extra buildings and eccentric citizens such as the Ronto, a towering, lolloping, scaly creature ridden like a camel. Ford's Han Solo, the mercenary pilot hired to help Skywalker's mission, shares a redundant, computer-generated scene with the slug-like Jabba the Hutt (previously seen as a rubber puppet in *Return of the Jedi*). Spaceships and smaller vehicles move more quickly.

In themselves, none of these "improvements" matter: the movie, essentially, is still as it was. But there is something ominous in the spectacle of Lucas, who has not personally directed a film since *Star Wars*, going back over his biggest hit to tweak a few details with technicians. Lucas is now far more comfortable directing computers than he is directing human beings; one suspects he is only directing *The Balance of the Force*, the new *Star Wars* prequel shooting this autumn, because it will rely heavily on computer-generated effects.

This Special Edition also prompts thoughts about Lucas's singular opportunity to revise his past work. Think of the opportunities here. Instead of *Star Wars*, I would rather see *The Magnificent Ambersons* with Welles's cut footage found and restored, or experience Erich von Stroheim's decadent splendours of the 1920s freed from Hollywood's censorious grip. Maybe it will happen — a long time in the future, in a galaxy far, far away.

Meanwhile, Hollywood finds new ways of dehumanising movies. **Space Jam** takes one live sports hero, basketball's Michael Jordan, and slams him on to the screen with the menagerie of animated characters from the Looney Tunes cartoons. Now sporting a three-dimensional look, Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck and company squawk and splutter in a cacophonous adventure securely aimed at ten-year-old Americans.

On a technical level, there is much to admire in the fusion of media overseen by director Joe Pytka; some of the animation was accomplished by the London company Premier Films, formed from veterans of *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*. But it is hard to be cheerful about the battery of product placements, the back-up squad of sports personalities (meaningless to British audiences), or the juvenile plot, which pits Jordan and the Looney Tuners in a basketball tournament with bulbous monsters from outer space.

Faced with acting alongside cartoon figures, Jordan performs creditably. You can wring perverse fun from isolated details, such as the spectacle of Tweety-Pie flicked with a finger against a gym wall. But *Space Jam* is less a movie than a triumph of merchandise and consumer marketing.

If you want to see human beings on the screen, **Trojan Eddie** is by far your best bet this week. They are a lively bunch: small-time Irish criminals, housewives, travellers, wily youngsters, plus one vicious godfather running out of time. Richard Harris attacks that role with a bite and fire that no computer could ever simulate. His opposite number is Stephen Rea, an ex-con and hawker of dubious goods in a small Irish town, dreaming of setting up his own business and struggling to be free of Harris's influence.

The script is by Billy Roche, playwright of the Wexford Trilogy. At first he thrusts too many characters at us; only once Harris gets married to Aislin McGuckin's young traveller, and the new wife absconds with his own nephew, does the film begin to stabilise. But in this computer-generated week, it's a joy to meet such messy characters, trailing their flaws, bantering and fighting, all with a genuine Irish flavour.

Scottish-born director Gillies MacKinnon adopts a less stylised approach than in his last film *Small Faces*. But he shows the same fondness for urban scamps, and against the odds makes Harris's vicious old brute a figure worth some sympathy. Rea and Harris prove a fascinating combination: the one full of snarling bluster, the other seeming to snap round his heels, but quietly manoeuvring for his own place in the sun.

Star Wars
Odeon Leicester Square
U, 125 mins
New edition of the movie milestone

Space Jam
Warner West End
U, 87 mins
Sport's Michael Jordan meets Bugs Bunny

Trojan Eddie
Metro, 15, 105 mins
Flavourful tale of Irish scamps

'Still totally fab'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases . . .

☐ *STAR WARS*
Tim Thornton, 21: An unconvincing piece of bombast that's unlikely to catch on.
Claire Wilmot, 18: Fantastic fun, but not nearly as frightening as I remembered it.
Damian Samuels, 19: One of cinema's all-time greats.
Leslie Thomas, 18: Its impact on me is as great as when I was younger. Totally fab.

☐ *SPACE JAM*
Tim: The sort of spineless, self-celebratory nonsense I had thought we'd got rid of in the 1980s.
Claire: A treat for those who love animation.
Damian: Worth seeing just for the brilliant Bill Murray.

SNAP VERDICT

Leslie: A kicking soundtrack and eye-popping animation.

TROJAN EDDIE
Tim: Not madly exciting, but with a certain charm.
Claire: See it only if the other films at your cinema are fully booked.
Damian: Richard Harris does what he does best: being moody, drunk and Gaelic.
Leslie: Well-plotted with a wicked ending.

COMPETITION THE TIMES

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How much money has Comic Relief raised in its five previous Red Nose Days?
a) £100 million b) £112 million c) £150 million

All proceeds from the line will go to Comic Relief. Normal TNL competition rules apply.

CHANGING TIMES

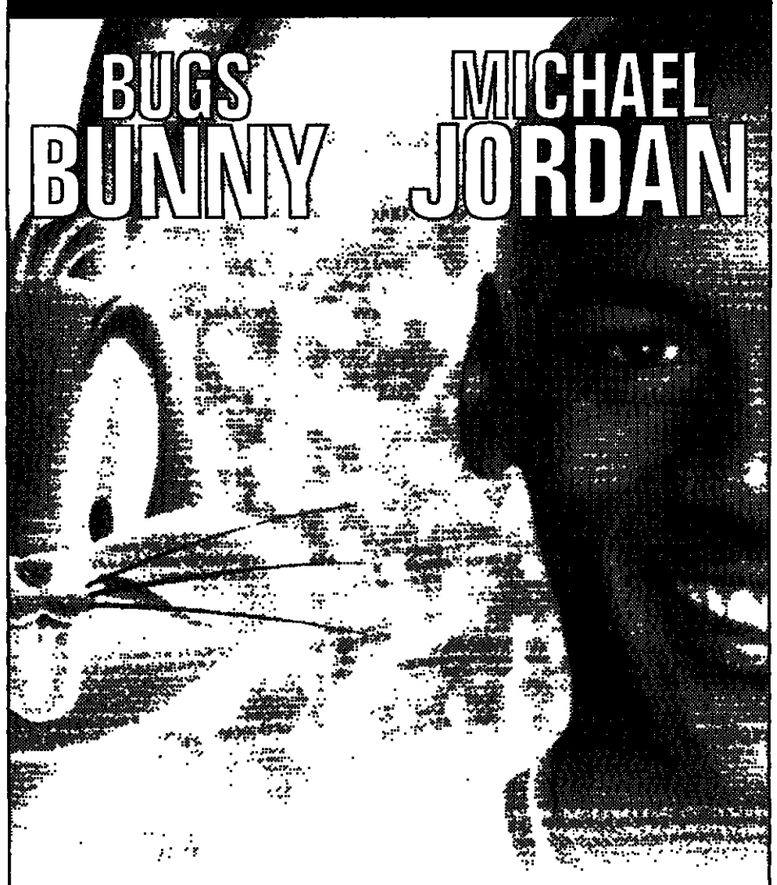
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Go with the wind: the special effects of *Twister* swirl onto the small screen



■ NEW CDS

Josephine Barstow sings Lady Billows on a new recording of Britten's *Albert Herring*

THE TIMES ARTS



■ NEW CDS

. . . while one of Sir John Barbirolli's final concerts comes out on disc for the first time



■ MUSIC

Hans Werner Henze's *Elegy for Young Lovers* fails to impress on a misconceived concert outing

Reel life gone with the wind



Nature on the rampage: experience the awesome power of special effects in *Twister*

NEW VIDEO RELEASES

■ **TWISTER**
CIC, 12, 1996
WANT to be whisked up in a tornado and scattered across Oklahoma? This rental release will show you the way, although the cardboard characters and the sheer regularity of the tornado's devastation limit the amount of true drama. The low-voltage cast includes Helen Hunt, Bill Paxton and Cary Elwes: at least they never interfere with the excellent special effects. Co-written by Michael Crichton; directed by Jan De Bont (*Speed*).

■ **THE ASPHALT JUNGLE**
MGM/UA, PG, 1950
"FULL of nasty, ugly people doing nasty things," said Louis B. Mayer, who preferred his MGM studio to make roses-round-the-door films. The people are crooks, planning a jewel robbery and falling out after the event, and director John Huston follows their actions with beady eyes. Brilliantly characterised; Sam Jaffe is particularly memorable as the wizened old mastermind, and Marilyn Monroe makes a striking brief appearance.

■ **THE NUTTY PROFESSOR**
CIC, 12, 1996
THIS exuberant remake of the Jerry Lewis comedy, itself inspired by *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, is at its best in the first half. Eddie Murphy's Professor Klump, 400lb of blubber, exudes genuine warmth as he bumbles courteously around campus. Once the professor's magic potion turns Klump into Buddy Love, a brash, strutting Romeo much closer to Murphy's usual character, the film strays into barren territory, and the vulgarities pile up. Available to rent.

■ **A SUMMER'S TALE**
Artificial Eye, U, 1996
MELVIL POUPAUD'S vacationing student arrives in Dinard to await his girlfriend, only to be lured by other female charms. Eric Rohmer's blissful film offers nothing new: once again the veteran French director focuses on dithering youth, talking away. But the talk flows so freely — and the cast are so engaging (especially Amanda Langlet) — that you soon fall under the spell. Cinema at its most delicate, refreshing and humane.

■ **THINGS TO COME**
Carlton, PG, 1936
ALEXANDER KORDA'S team used great visual flair to depict H. G. Wells's gloomy vision of the future: William Cameron Menzies's set designs are as bold and memorable as those for *Metropolis*. The script deals in symbolic characters rather than human beings, which prompts variable acting from Raymond Massey, Cedric Hardwicke, Ralph Richardson and company. But it is alive with ideas, which cannot be said of many science fiction films, and stamped with Arthur Bliss's fine music.

GEOFF BROWN

A battle, then Britten

OPERA

Werther / Albert Herring
Manchester

VISITORS from the south detect a distinct whiff of money in the air when visiting the Royal Northern College of Music, certainly compared to the London colleges. It is not just a matter of the spanking new £5 million extension to be opened in the autumn: Peter Ruthven Hall's elaborate decor for four performances of *Albert Herring* would grace any professional company. The public areas buzz not just with life, but with municipal pride in a remarkable facility.

The second work in the RNCM spring opera season was *Werther*, being given for the first time in this country — and only the second time in living memory — in the version for baritone that the composer made for Mattia Battistini, and hence of great interest to Massenetistes. Alas, it showed the composer at his most cynical, the result of a morning's work, surely, just to ensure royalties rolling in from performances by so famous a star singer.

Top notes are taken down a third or fourth, which, together with bland octave transpositions down (and suddenly up again), destroy the shape of the melodies and leave many lines in an awkward part of the voice to be covered by the orchestra. No wonder Massenet never published this botched job, and it was sad that the talented young singer here, Adrian Powter, was largely defeated by it.

But there were two more-than-just-promising women to hand: Christine Rice (Charlotte), whose firm, warm mezzo is fully formed and beautifully schooled; and Mary-Louise Aitken (Sophie), as bright and sweet of soprano tone as she is of face and figure. We shall hear a great deal more of both. Jennifer Hamilton's amateurish production, in her own village-hall sets, was infinitely depressing, and the conductor Baldur Brönnimann allowed the orchestra to play too loudly and lumpishly.

There were more voices in the Britten, idiomatically conducted by Timothy Reynish. Anna Burford (Nancy) has a mezzo just as well formed as Rice's, and with a really exciting contralto extension of Ferrier-like resonance. Claire Weston (Lady Billows) has a vibrant top, a penetrating middle, and a fruity low register, all joined together seamlessly — the dramatic soprano we are all waiting for? Other possessors of fine material — D'Arcy Bleiker (Budd), Zoe Willis (Florence), Antonia Sotgiu (Mum), Daniel Broad (Sid) — were tempted to sing too forcefully, which may have had something to do with Stefan Janski's production.

This was *Carry On Albert*, Britten's comedy played as a coarse farce with added sight-gags and everyone overplaying like fury. It was, again, infinitely depressing to think of students being taught that this is how comedy should be played.

RODNEY MILNES

Dross rehearsal

Elegy for Young Lovers
Birmingham

THE reason why Hans Werner Henze's *Elegy for Young Lovers* is one of the most successful of 1960s opera scores is that it is so well written for the theatre. Having asked W.H. Auden and Chester Kallman for a libretto that would require "tender, beautiful noises", the composer produced a score in which an orchestra of no more than 25 players remains for the most part discreetly, if meaningfully, in the background. Skilfully integrated with the voices, the instrumental textures are designed to set the stage action in high relief.

But *Elegy for Young Lovers* is not a suitable opera for the concert hall and, although the singers made the occasional move from one part of the platform to another or added a scarf to their evening dress here and there, the missing stage dimension in the London Sinfonietta's performance in Symphony Hall reduced the experience to that of attending a rehearsal.

Certainly it was both instructive and rewarding to hear this most poetic of Henze's scores presented with such clarity and such expressive colouring. But, with the words largely inaudible and neither printed in the programme nor projected on to the screen which had been set up to register the scene changes, it was incomplete.

Bearing in mind how much good concert music was written in the 1960s, it was sad to see the audience so put off by this ill-conceived project that by the end of the evening it had dwindled to embarrassing proportions.

As for the unfortunate cast, they must have been looking forward to the repeat performance in the more intimate setting of the Queen Elizabeth Hall. Louisa Kennedy-Richardson in the coloratura role of the visionary Hilda Mack sounded brilliant even here, and there was an impressive performance also from Susan Bickley as the poet's secretary, Carolina. Most of the others, including Quentin Hayes's crucially undercharacterised Mittenhoffer, Jon Garrison's awkward young lover and Susannah Waters's colourless object of their rival affections, needed all the help they could get, not least from their well-organised but uninspired conductor, Markus Stenz.

GERALD LARNER

Excellent cast lands a golden catch

NEW CLASSICAL RECORDINGS

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Albert Herring
Barstow/Gritton/ Palmer/ Gillett/Lloyd/Northern Sinfonia/Bedford
Collins Classics 70422
(2 CDs)★★★ *£26.99*
HERRING is 50 this summer. Few will want to be without Britten's own recording (Decca) or the video of Peter Hall's Glyndebourne staging, which breathed the very air of East Anglian sanctimoniousness. But Collins's new version puts in a hefty and idiomatic challenge to both, due in large part to the witty and nimble playing of the 11-piece Northern Sinfonia under Steuart Bedford. He does not miss a trick — or a musical joke.

Britten filled his comedy with cameo parts. Practically every singer has a chance to seize his or her moment and Collins has for the most part picked a cast which does not let such opportunities slip. Robert Lloyd is full of constabulary righteousness as Superintendent Budd and Susan Gritton all of a twitter as the local headmistress. Gerald Finley and Ann Taylor, Sid from the butcher's and Nancy from the baker's, flirt like lovestruck teenagers.

Della Jones sounds too refined as Albert's Mum and Josephine Barstow's Lady Billows cannot efface the memory of her famous predecessors — she sounds too squally even with that name and lacks the precise diction of those around her. Such minor blemishes can be forgiven when there is the compensation of Christopher Gillett's Albert, a changed man after his tour of the four-ale bars of the village.

JOHN HIGGINS

■ **BRUCKNER**
Symphony No 8
Hallé Orchestra/Barbirolli
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15656 09922★★ *£6.49*
ONE of the most interesting of the recent batch of BBC Radio Classics is Sir John Barbirolli's account of Bruckner's Eighth Symphony. This is a particularly valuable document because Barbirolli, though a regular conductor of Bruckner, made no commercial recordings of the symphonies. The occasion is also a poignant one because this Festival Hall concert with the Hallé Orchestra took place in May 1970, just months before Barbirolli's death.

In view of that, it is possible to take an indulgent line on the patchy sound, the audience noise and the inevitable mishits of a live recording. Sometimes, too, the tutti brass effects are a little crude, but there is a compensating raw energy that drives this performance and a warm, full-blooded realisation of Bruckner's expansive textures. Indeed, it is the judicious blend of spaciousness and dynamism characterising this reading that gives it its conviction and authority.

BARRY MILLINGTON

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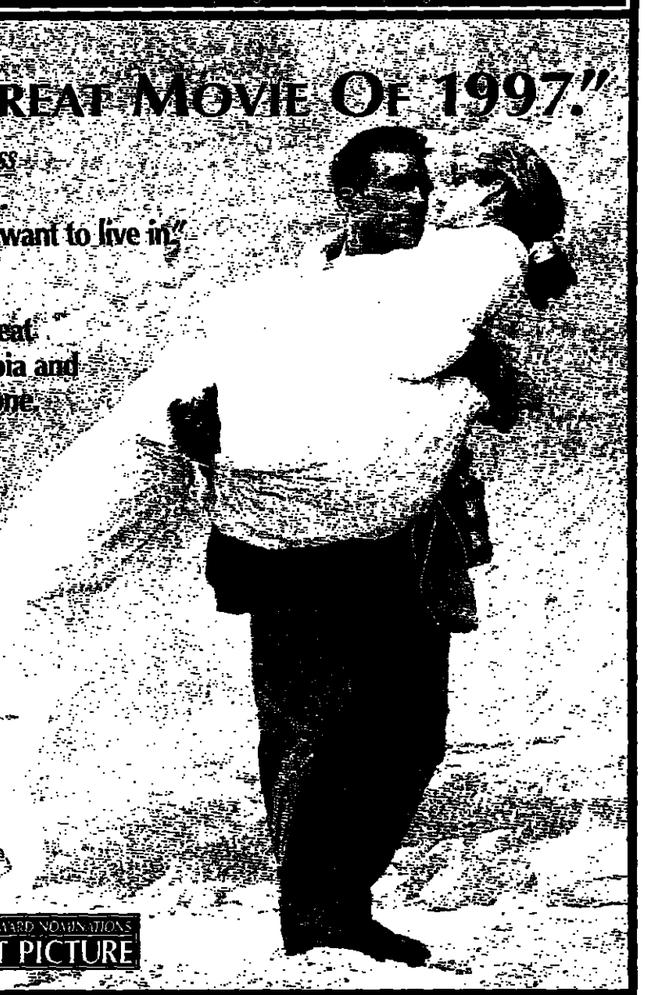
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Moderation his muse

Peter Stothard on the varied gifts of a poet who combined earth and empire

AKG PHOTO



One face of a multifaceted poet: early 16th-century fresco of Horace in the Cappella Nuova at Orvieto

HORACE
A Life
By Peter Levi
Duckworth £25
ISBN 0 7156 2775 4

To say that there is bad blood in the veins of the Royal Family has been fashionable for as long as we have had a monarchy. To link the idea to a 2,000-year-old poem about witches who chop up children to make sex-stimulants takes a special imagination. Peter Levi's discussion of Horace's "evil" fifth *Epode* ranges from Latin-speaking cockerels in the years before Horace was born to the character of Rimini more than a thousand years later: a "stronghold of the Sforza family whose disastrous blood ran in the British monarchy through Henrietta Maria".

Levi goes off at tangents with the eagerness that ordinary biographers seek birth certificates. He once wrote a biography of Lear: so we see Roman Italy through Lear's eyes. A man who can compare Horace's work to "a poem I wrote many years ago for the television series *That Was The Week That Was*" is not one who treads the narrow route to respect.

Horace was one of the most extraordinary artists to have ever lived. By marrying the young Latin language to classical Greek morality and metre, he became one of the true founders of Europe. He was the first poet to produce a precise description of an identifiable place: his five-word description of Terracina (*Satires* 1.5.26) merits a place in any writer's commonplace book. His sixth *Satire* is a pioneering act of self-portraiture. His ability to weave philosophy and poetry had never been matched before and has only rarely been seen since.

He also happened to fight in one of history's decisive battles, at Philippi in 42 BC, when his future patron and founder of the Roman Empire defeated the assassins of Julius Caesar. With a poet's special sense of military matters, he fought on the losing side. If any ancient figure merits a fresh biography for each new generation (as current publishing practice seems to demand) it is Horace.

Levi can add nothing to the biographical facts of this life. Quintus Horatius Flaccus was born in 65 BC on what would have been December 8 if the Romans had been calculating the date as we do. His birthplace was Venusia, just north of Naples. His father was a freed slave who became wealthy enough to educate his son at Rome and in Athens. In Greece he met Brutus and made his military debut. He then found himself a clerk's job with the winning side before attracting the attention of Augustus's bagman, Maecenas, and later of the Emperor himself.

Subsequently, Horace settled down to a poet's life in Rome and on his Sabine farm, breaking new literary ground and giving succour to the regime that gave him the peace to do so. This much is more or less agreed.

Beyond that, however, Horace has many faces. The first has been familiar to schoolboys for centuries. This is the jolly countryman Horace who likes a good drink, a compliant sexual companion and a philosophy of nothing in excess. The harsher urban poems of child-murder, polluted cemeteries and prostitute hags are, according to this view, as atypical as they are unsuitable.

This Horace has always been an Englishman. As Levi relates, it was Milton's friend, Lucas Holstein, who first "identified" the site of the Sabine farm: the consequent crowds of English visitors left locals in no doubt that a great foreign poet had once lived among them.

The second Horace belongs to the inspirational German scholar and refugee, Eduard Fraenkel. This is the noble Horace who defined one of the greatest statesmen in history. Fraenkel's favourite Horatian ode was not a paean to Pyrrha, as favoured by Milton, or an epicurean comment upon the passing of winter, but a letter of loyalty to Augustus. To his students in Oxford in the Seventies it used to seem odd that a man who had fled the tyranny of Hitler should be so enthusiastic about the tyrannophile aspects of Horace. But Fraenkel had no problem with authoritarianism as such — as long as the authority was his own.

The third Horace, a sensitive thinker and delicate adapter of Sappho and Alcaeus, is less an Italian admirer of Mussolini, more a Greek partisan in Italian garb. Classical students may still read Fraenkel's *Horace* (and some of us still recall in fear the memory of his seminars) but the modern tutor prefers softer voices.

Which face of Horace does Levi show us? Not a very clear one. He admires Fraenkel and follows his reluctance to admire Horace's earthier work. Neither feels comfortable that the great philosophical doctrine of the "golden mean" should be applied to a safe sexual path avoiding married women and whores; in all such disagreeable cases Horace is said to be reworking well worn themes. Levi is an enthusiastic censor, happy to say that a poem in Horace's Latin is "more amusing and less decorous than I have made it".

Levi is a powerful poet himself but an underpowered critic and haphazard writer of a life story. He makes a balanced case for the now less fashionable political poems. In the early Roman Empire both military power and moral poetry had a force that had never been felt before. Levi shows how Horace was central to that achievement, how he was not a mere propagandist for Augustus but helped to define what Augustus became: "He was both mesmerised and one of the mesmerists."

This book is otherwise chiefly memorable for its tangents, its unexpected references to its author. Not every reader of the *Odes* knows that bears prowl about moaning and groaning when they are hungry or that the Egyptian cobra's bite would have been painless for Cleopatra. But Levi explains how he has spoken to the Canadian bear expert, Professor John North of Waterloo; and that he learnt about the cobra from the great A. S. F. Gow, "a very old boyfriend of A.E. Housman who survived at Trinity Cambridge into my day".

Roger Bannister on the vanishing all-rounder

Century, home run or hole-in-one: it's all sport on the brain

WHY MICHAEL COULDN'T HIT
And Other Tales of the Neurology of Sports
By Harold L. Klawans
W. H. Freeman, $22.95
ISBN 0 7167 3001 4

The "Michael" of the title is the world's greatest basketball player Michael Jordan who, bored with many years of effortless superiority, tried at the age of 31 to switch to baseball and failed. His enormous sporting skills were just not transferable. This book, an eclectic mixture of sporting history, anecdote and neurology, should fascinate even readers with only a glancing interest in sport, analysing as it does the acquisition and disintegration of high sporting skills.

The Michael Jordan problem illustrates one of the quintessential fascinations of sport — why, suddenly among sporting stars, there arises a superstar of baffling brilliance. The fact that Michael Jordan could not switch sports also illustrates a second seminal sporting question — why are all-rounders a vanishing breed? Are some athletes genetically programmed to have exceptional trainable skills, in particular in perceiving the speed and direction of moving balls they catch and hit?

Liam Botham, son of one of our great all-rounders, recently refused national cricket trials because he prefers rugby and seems just as good at it. The Cowdrays keep cricket in the family the way others keep the family silver. At the royal end of sport, the Princess Royal's son, with sporting genes from both sides, may well play rugby for Scotland.

I believe the main reason for the disappearance of the all-rounder is that sporting standards are now so high and specific training so tough and lengthy, that there is no time left to develop wider sporting skills. The current lack of coaching for competitive sports in so many schools does not help the situation.

This book tells the story of the great American all-rounder Babe Didricksen, who won women's Olympic medals for jumping and throwing events before she even turned her attention to golf — at which she was the world's best. At present Britain has the world's best woman golfer in Laura Davies. She repeatedly outdrove Tom Watson, who dominated golf worldwide in the 1970s and 1980s. Could she have become as great an all-rounder as Babe Didricksen? One of the delights of sport is such speculation.

Some sporting problems are simply mechanical. The human shoulder is ill-adapted to throwing a baseball at a hundred miles per hour. The Pitcher Bruce Sutter trapped his supraspinatus nerve and J. R. Richard, another pitcher, blocked his brachial artery. Sometimes athletes will have incidental neurological diseases and in these cases Dr Klawans gives us useful tutorials. Myasthenia causes fatigue on hard exercise, which is why Dwight Jameson was nicknamed "First-Half Jameson".

Of more interest are the diseases which seem actually to have contributed to sporting success. The Italian boxer Primo Carnera, who was discovered in a French boxing booth, had a pituitary tumour causing gigantism. At six feet seven inches with an arm span of seven feet, this disease gave him weight and reach but without great muscle strength or co-ordination. My own view of boxing is that no civilised country should tolerate this "sport", in which the deliberate intent is to inflict damage on the brain. Muhammad Ali developed Parkinson's disease possibly aggravated by repeated trauma.

For a neurologist the greatest interest in this book lies in its discussion of the complex strain sport places on the brain's capacity to learn complex tasks, different but in some ways resembling language and music skills which are also more easily learnt when young. A four-minute piano performance requires some 70 manual finger movements a second. A pole vaulter does a reverse twist handstand on a moving 15 ft pole after running at 20 miles per hour.

When complex neurological co-ordination goes wrong it is difficult to control. The golfer Ben Hogan very publicly lost the ability to putt because of an involuntary jerk known as the "yips". As a left-handed boy he was too poor to buy left-handed clubs so he had to play right-handed. Since the game is said to require subordination of the normally dominant hand, this might have helped his swing up to a point, but did the strain of the transfer make him more vulnerable to breakdown?

I am puzzled and indeed slightly embarrassed to find myself included in this book rather as a grace note because I happen to be a neurologist with a past in sport. In public I will admit to a degree of obsessiveness desirable in sport and also, I may add, to Dr Klawans a prerequisite for a neurological career!

Dr Klawans's selection is mainly American but his examples can be transferred to Britain. Sporting stress can now be subject to more precise observation than the famous remark by the American coach Yogi Berra: "Baseball is 90 per cent mental and the other half is physical."

There are other books to be written on the neurology of sport but this is a very good start. The serious message of the book is that all learning is complex and difficult, and the moment to learn differs for each activity and must be exploited easily for success. Dr Klawans is to be congratulated. I hope his love of neurology does not dampen his ardour for writing.

Sir Roger Bannister is Honorary Consultant Neurologist to the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Queens Square, and St Mary's Hospital, London.

A version of this review appeared in Nature Medicine *and has been reprinted with the permission of the publisher.*

AP/BILL INGRAM



Low batting average: Jordan's skills were not transferable

Putting the Third Reich into the Three Rs



Discover how the Nazis used the classroom to indoctrinate German children in the ABC of fascism and how the three Rs were manipulated to peddle a chilling view of the Jews, the disabled and those who refused to Heil Hitler as 'Untermenschen' – sub-humans. All is revealed in April's **History Today**.

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Novelty and the ghosts of the great

Robert Nye

NEW WRITING 6
Edited by A. S Byatt and Peter Porter
Vintage, £7.99
ISBN 0 09 954551 9

NEW IRISH WRITING
Edited by Colm Tóibín
Bloomsbury, £7.99
ISBN 0 7475 3205 2

There is the story of the only time James Joyce met Marcel Proust. Joyce announced that he had a headache and his eyes felt terrible. Proust responded that his stomach was killing him and he had better leave at once. "I'm in the same situation," said Joyce. "Goodbye." "*Charmé*," said Proust. "Oh my stomach, my stomach."

The stand-out story in *New Writing 6*, latest in the annual series of anthologies sponsored by the British Council, is Michael Foley's *Marcel et Jim*, a fantasia based on this legendary confrontation. Foley slyly suggests that the reputed exchange of banalities was just the official *official* version put out by the two great men to keep their real encounter private. His fiction has Joyce come back to Proust's apartment, where Proust produces photographs of the adored women in his life, including his mother, and Joyce identifies them as terrible Dublin whores that he has known. "What do you take me for?" Joyce cries, when the perversely satisfied Frenchman offers him money in gratitude for his brutality, "*Proustitute*?".

This is good dirty literary fun. So is Robert Irwin's *Unreadable Books*, a monologue parodying the style of a critique, in which characters in books are supposed to be authors. Thus, Enoch Soames becomes the most important writer of our time, and "After Soames, British fiction in the 20th century is one long disappointment." This spoof is perhaps too knowing, but those in the know will adore it.

ADRIAN SHERRATT



A. L. Kennedy: sharp

Another intelligent entertainment is David Bellos's essay *Our Own and Other Tongues*, about translation in the 1990s. Bellos, the English translator of Georges Perec, has interesting things to say, observing that his version of *Life A User's Manual* "has patterns of language that are at least as characteristic of my own writing as they are of Georges Perec." Why? Because a motive in making the translation was that "I felt I knew what the book would have sounded like had it been written in English in the first place."

More homely fare is provided by John McGahern's *The White Boat*, a solidly realistic fiction, Irish as drisheen, and A. L. Kennedy's *Awaiting an Adverse Reaction*, in which all the woe of a marriage is conveyed in four sharp pages as a woman receives injections for a holiday abroad and realises that the flavour of polio vaccine in her mouth is like the unloved taste of her husband's semen. Three women make most impressions among the poets — Lavinia Greenlaw, Maura Dooley, and Dorothy Nimmo. Each achieves an individual rhythm. John Harvey and Christopher Hope let us look over their shoulders with extracts from novels in progress.

Such extracts outweigh the other contributions in *New Irish Writing* — there are twelve of them, including intriguing bits of unpublished novels by Tom Murphy (his first), Mary Leland, and Deirdre Madden. John Banville provides a scene from a new translation of Kleist's *The Broken Jug*, transported to Ballybog and playing pointedly on the differences between Irish and other forms of law. And there is a striking extract from a television play by Roddy Doyle in which most of the spoken sentences are only a few words long — Doyle has a fine ear for the rhythm of Dublin speech-ways.

A feature of this anthology is the way Irish writers of the present think continually of their own Truly Great. Joyce is invoked once more in a garrulous love letter from Edna O'Brien. Yeats figures as a ghost in Roy Foster's essay, and Yeats's less famous brother Jack gets his painterly due in a piece by Tom Paulin. It's as if the tide's gone out, and there's nothing left to do but pick over the giant footprints on Sandymount Strand. The poets are bolder. Paul Muldoon contributes some puckish musings on the birth of his daughter. Eavan Boland a pleasant tribute to her mother's skill in making parcels, and Seamus Heaney some broken iambic pentameters about skimming stones on water which show how much he has learned from Robert Frost.

Books like these are a pleasure to read because they are full of hope and newness, especially in the case of contributors at the start of their careers. They leave no doubt that literature is alive and well and living in the English language all over the place.

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'A grippin
of great p
THE TI

Higher learning — and lower

"I HATE racism in all its manifestations and will not tolerate its expression from the most eminent of historians — *especially* from them," writes Francis Jennings, author, in *Benjamin Franklin, Politician*, immediately after his delicate summing up of the effect of the work of others: "The Quakers became in image what crude bigots call 'nigger lovers'."

Jennings — whose dull, internecine book is only tangentially about Franklin — is director emeritus of the Newberry Library Center for the History of the American Indian, so racial questions presumably loom large for him, as for all American academics, who are professionally obliged to share his intolerance.

So it is surprising to read the opening to his Chapter 8: "No one in a responsible position [in colonial Pennsylvania] could have escaped concern about the tide of immigrant Germans ... [Franklin wrote:] 'This will in a few Years become a German Colony: Instead of their Learning our Language, we must learn their's, or live as in a foreign Country.'" For "Germans" in the first sentence, substitute "blacks" or "Jews", and the effect is explosive. And in parts of present-day America the question of which is to be the first language is again a live one. So here is a pledged anti-racist saying that responsible people should legitimately be concerned about their own cultures. Common sense. But did he mean it?



BIBLIOMANE

I WALK and I balk. South Bank University, Borough Road, SE1: "Student's Entrance". Dismissing the idea that there is only one student, I conclude that no one at this seat of learning has ever noticed, or that no one knows.

Yes, I am a pedant. Why does it matter more than the shop at the end of the road offering Roll's and Bap's?

It matters because it announces that the place doesn't care about what Housman called "the *maintenance* of accurate learning". But I want these places to shake off the *Private Eye* image of "the University of Scotch Corner, formerly World of Carpets". I want to be persuaded that my taxes are being spent on recognisable education. I want to know that students reading for degrees can read.

It matters for the reasons William James put forward in 1908, when he argued that higher education is about *cultivating* a critical sense, "the admiration of the really admirable, the disesteem of what is cheap and trashy and impermanent". Ultimately, he argued, higher education should "enable us to *know a good man when we see him*". He went on: "That the phrase is anything but an empty epigram follows from the fact that if you ask in what line it is most important that a democracy like ours should have its sons and daughters skilful, you see that it is in this line more than any other."

We need to educate people to appreciate quality, and we are not doing it well. And incidentally, when will St Thomas' Hospital find its missing "s"?

JIM MCCUE

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Derwent May sweeps through Arthur Ransome's letters and finds adventures worthy of the classic children's writer

Swallows and Marxists

SIGNALLING FROM MARS
The Letters of Arthur Ransome
Selected and Introduced by Hugh Brogan
Cape, £17.99
0 224 04261 0

Thirteen years ago, Hugh Brogan brought out an excellent biography of the children's writer, Arthur Ransome. Now he has produced a volume of Ransome's letters that bring this genial, ebullient man to life again.

When the letters begin, in August 1914, Ransome is 30. He has gone to Russia, to look for folk tales that he can turn into a book — and to get away from an impossibly unhappy marriage. His unhappiness fades very quickly, and in the first days of the Great War he writes enthusiastically to his mother about the Russians. It is clear at once what a natural, vivid writer he is:

"You know how our soldiers go off in pomp with flags and music. I have not heard a note of music since the declaration of war. They go off here quite silently in the middle of the night, carrying their little kettles, and for all the world like puzzled children going to school for the first time. And the idea in all their heads is fine. 'We hate fighting. But if we can stop Germany then there will be peace for ever'."

He was destined to stay in Russia, or near by in Finland, Sweden or Estonia, for the next ten years. He became a foreign correspondent for *The Daily News* and then *The Manchester Guardian*, and went on writing brilliant accounts of the war and the Revolution in his letters home as well as in his telegrams to his editors. During these years he also fell in love with Trotsky's secretary, a fiery but deeply loyal woman called Evgenia Petrovna Shelepina (or "Topsy", as in Turvy, to Ransome — he was called "Charlie", as in Chaplin). After a painful divorce from his first wife, he married Genia in 1924.

He enjoyed those years abroad, and the letters burst with his pleasures — watching the shifting icebergs in the harbour at Riga, with grey hooded crows perched on them and the fishermen deftly throwing nets between them; building his boat *Racundra* (the propeller of his tiny outboard engine like "a little brass flower" attached to its large hull); sailing to England, "shedding articles into the post-boxes at all the harbours on the way".

In its early days he was also sympathetic to the Russian Revolution, and argued in *The Guardian* that British friendship towards the Soviets would steer the Revolution on to quite a different course. But throughout these years he longed to return to the Lake District, where he had been so happy as a boy, and just write stories. He finally got back there with Genia in 1925 — and then dropped politics like a stone, and wrote stories, and hardly ever left the Lakes again.



Ransome by Ransome

It was genius to devise the story of *Swallows and Amazons* when he began his new writing career in 1929. Readers who love that book can see intimations of its themes running all through these letters. The four children who sail the *Swallow* in it are based closely on the children of an old boyhood sweetheart from the Lake District with whom he had remained friends, and the lake on which they have their adventures is partly Coniston and partly Windemere. He wrote later to a young writer friend that she must "follow her own internal compass", and that is what he did here. "He had found a way," says Brogan, "to do what he had always wanted to do, which was to write stories for children, while satisfying his own exacting literary standards."

The later life unfolded in these letters, as he went on writing book after book, is a very cheering reflection of the way that literary traditions can go on even though they are at odds with prevailing literary fashion. We are so used to thinking of Bloomsbury, the Auden friends and then Evelyn Waugh's world as embodying English "literary life" from the Twenties to the Fifties that it is startling to discover this other quite self-contained and contented literary set.

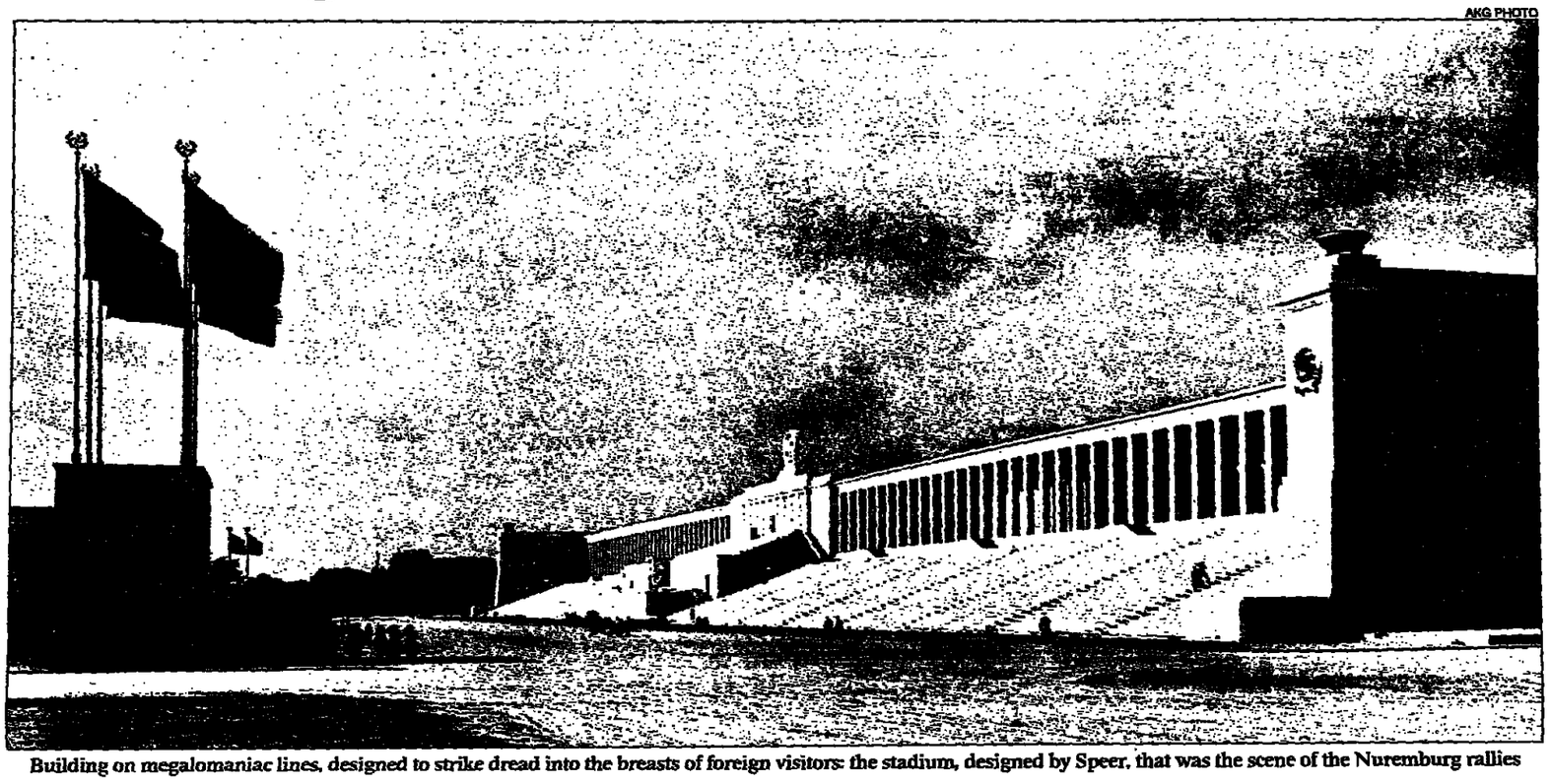
One letter reveals that Janet Adam Smith was questioning in *The Spectator* in 1943 "whether Mr Ransome's stories appeal to children who live entirely outside the world of nannies, cooks and private boat-houses". Ransome himself gives a robust answer to this early specimen of a narrow political correctness: "Does she really think that none but birds can read Hans Andersen's *Ugly Duckling* and that it is necessary to be of the blood royal to enjoy *Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*? I should be very sorry indeed to think that only children of one particular background can share the fun of open air doings, and the feelings that have been common to all young human beings from the beginning of time."

However, one child that Ransome did not understand was his daughter from his first marriage, Tabitha. He wrote her some wonderfully funny illustrated letters when she was small, but she clearly never forgave him for deserting her, and he remained bewildered and hurt by the cruel letters he received from her in later life. It is about the only really sad note in this book.

Brogan's notes to the letters could sometimes, I felt, have been a little more informative. But for anyone who wants to go on and read the full story of Arthur Ransome, it is good news that, according to the publishers, Brogan's biography and Ransome's autobiography are still in print.

Knowledge of himself as he was

AKG PHOTO



Building on megalomaniac lines, designed to strike dread into the breasts of foreign visitors: the stadium, designed by Speer, that was the scene of the Nuremburg rallies

Dan van der Vat, who covered Germany as a journalist for *The Times*, has been a little unlucky. Two years ago, Gitta Sereny, another journalist, wrote a book about Albert Speer that won prizes. Speer had been an exceedingly powerful man in Hitler's Reich and, at the Nuremberg trials, was given a 20-year sentence as a war criminal. Beginning as an architect, he was put in charge, still in his thirties, of a gigantic project to rebuild Germany's capital city on megalomaniac lines; he built for Hitler an enormous chancellery, which was designed to strike dread into the breasts of foreign visitors (if it did not strike dread, at least it could cause them some moments of slippery doubt as they tottered across the marble football field floor of the "study" to see Hitler). In the first two-and-a-half years of the war, these construction projects required great resources, which, of course, were withdrawn from the military effort. Early in 1942, Albert Speer was therefore put in charge of the munitions industry, as a way of making sure that he did not frustrate it. He did very well — increasing production remarkably, even though Germany came under deadly bombardment. Like Hjalmar Schadcht, another technician of genius, Speer counted as Hitler's one of most effective henchmen, and, as such, he got his 20 years' sentence.

His own memoirs, ghost-written by another technician of genius, Joachim Fest, became a bestseller in the later Sixties, after his release. But the question always remained: how *could* Speer, a highly educated man with excellent manners, have gone along with the evil Nazi crew? How much did he know about the massacre of Jews and the crimes against humanity?

Dan van der Vat has gone into this question in a biography that complements Gitta Sereny's rather well. His great strength (apart from readability — anything to do with the Nazis can be exceedingly boring, as they were, but van der Vat does well) is that he takes Speer seriously as an architect (he does not like the stuff, but I would rather live in a Speer building than in most modern constructions; apart from anything else, those Thirties buildings were just more reliably constructed).

He also talks at length about Speer's achievements in war-production, which were indeed considerable. Van der Vat remarks felicitously that Germans manage to be both excellent organisers and rather inefficient; the same, if you judge by longer-term goals, was true of Speer, but van der Vat's account of his management of the German war economy is very good. How could the Germans produce so much more war goods in 1944, under heavy bombardments, than in 1943? "Flow methods" and conscript labour had a great deal to do with it. It was for the maltreatment of foreign labour that Speer got his sentence.

The question that everyone asked was, how could Albert Speer reconcile his profession with his conscience? Why not join the Resistance? To this, the convict himself simply said that he accepted guilt in a general way, but he had not really known what was happening to the Jews in the death camps — at least, not until very late in the day. How could he live with that burden of guilt, asked Gitta Sereny, who knew him quite well and wrote rather movingly about this. Van der Vat thinks that Speer was lying.

Norman Stone

THE GOOD NAZI
The Life and Lies of Albert Speer
By Dan van der Vat
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20
ISBN 0 297 81731 3

He himself had had a part in deporting Jews from Berlin, but he suppressed the documentary evidence and even tried to fool the German Federal Archive. He was found out because an old associate kept the record and made it public when Speer, as he often did with people, behaved treacherously towards him. That is the burden of van der Vat's book: Speer was not a good guy after all, but a calculating Nazi believer who was just much, much more adept at handling Allied justice than the thugs who were hanged.

I have a bone or two to pick — nothing serious, but why does an inexperienced writer such as van der Vat write *vivieur*, which means "rake", when he means *bon vivant* which means what it says? Agreed, Speer probably did know more about the massacre of the Jews than he let on. Forced labour, some of it Jewish, did live in dreadful conditions, not all of which were ascribable to Allied bombing. However, the Final Soloution was executed in fits and starts, and although Speer would unquestionably have known about various atrocities, he could have been kept in the dark as to the amplitude of the whole thing. "Evasions" rather than "lies" would maybe be a more suitable word for the title.

I conducted the last interview that Speer ever did — it was for the BBC — and he died shortly afterwards. We had had dinner the night before, and I found him quite open and remarkably lively about the Thirties in particular (he surprised me by not understanding the depth of difference that existed between Catholics and Protestants when it came to voting Nazi: the Catholics were much less likely Nazis). I had vaguely expected that Speer might merit Benjamin Constant's line about *la fatuité d'un esprit qui voudrait s'excuser en s'expliquant* but there was none of that. A very rum cove, and in the manner of his death, too — it was for an assignation that he had really come to London, and he had explained to a friend that he had had to wait until he was over 70 to know what an erotic experience really was. The lady telephoned the receptionist to say that the old man had had a stroke, and then the lady vanished. A rum end for a very enigmatic figure, whose memoirs are, nonetheless, part of European literature.

Waltzing with Mrs T

Nicholas Wapshott

ONCE A JOLLY BAGMAN
By Alistair McAlpine
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20
ISBN 0 297 81737 X

ALISTAIR McALPINE was an unlikely recruit to Margaret Thatcher's band of revolutionaries, for on the face of it he had all the qualifications to be a prime wet. Born wealthy thanks to the labours of his father and grandfather, he thought of his father's brickies as part of his extended family. He was an unashamed aesthete who collected everything from rag dolls to veterinary equipment. He had a grand house in Knightsbridge, complete with private cinema, and an even grander country house, West Green, not to mention homes in Australia and Venice.

In the Sixties he lived the life and held the sort of louche parties that Norman Tebbit now blames for the corruption of British society. He first slid into politics as an unthinking pro-European, raising money to fight for the Yes cause in the 1976 referendum. And yet, when the call came from Mrs Thatcher to serve, there he was, ready and eager. And there he remains, fighting her corner against the wimps, the traitors and appeasers.

JOHN VOOS



The collector: McAlpine with ancient eel spears, 1983

This memoir has been billed as a rival to the gloriously indiscreet *Diaries* of Alan Clark, but the comparison is unfair. Clark is an historian and man of ideas whose distaste for his fellow toffs is founded in a disdain for what they think. McAlpine is a more simple character, a dabbler in politics, and he has written a revenger's tale.

His main targets are not so much those who objected to Lady Tumbledown and all her doings as those who posed as Thatcherites and subsequently undid her. And he is fiercely loyal to her because by making him a joint Tory party treasurer she gave him something useful to do for the first time in his life. Although by that time 32 years of age, as he puts it, "I had never been offered a serious job before" and he remains grateful.

So woe betide anyone who mistreats his benefactor, which, according to this glancing account of life inside Mrs Finchley's bunker, includes many of her closest colleagues. And it is the traducing of his former muckers which makes this poisonous apologia such a joy to read.

Willie Whitelaw (who shored her up more than once) is condemned for hurting her; Geoffrey Howe (the architect of the caustic 1981 Budget) "irritated her beyond belief". Tristan Garel-Jones was a viper; Chris Patten greedy with oysters (and this from a trencherman whose gluttony led to a sextuple heart bypass). Then "the only part about the recession that was shallow and short was its cause — Norman Lamont".

But most despised of all is Jeffrey Archer. What can explain the passion behind this public garrotting? "The myth about Archer is that he was a member of Thatcher's court. The fact is that he was not. As for Archer's fundraising abilities, they were negligible." And there's worse. "I only hope, for the sake of Britain, that no politician, hearing only good of the man, mistakenly gives him again a job of any political consequence."

Major is dismissed as barely worth writing about. While this most clubbable of men, always ready for a breakfast or a lunch or a quick glass before dinner, condemns Major for assembling a "Cabinet of Chums", he takes at face value Mrs Thatcher's excuses for errors such as the poll tax, the Single European Act and her anointment of Major.

For all his closeness to Herself, when it came to policy she ignored him. Like many a political reporter, he suffered from the delusion that being allowed to witness power at close quarters is a form of power itself. But as those he mugs in these pages will conclude, he would understand electoral politics a lot better if he had been elected to something. Anything. Instead he has taken a commission in Sir James's ragbag army.

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EIGHT airlines, including North West, KLM, Emirates, Air New Zealand and South African Airways, have an economy class World Navigator fare priced from £1,099. That price covers 29,500 miles of travel, departing from April 1 onwards, and six stopovers. Details: 01293 561000.

■ AIR UK has a spring sale. One-way flights to destinations such as Amsterdam, Paris, Düsseldorf and Edinburgh cost £35, one-way flights to Copenhagen, Frankfurt, Milan, Munich and Zurich £49. Book 14 days ahead and no later than April 6. Details: 0345 666777.

■ AER LINGUS has a £119 companion fare to Dublin with Cork and Shannon priced at £129. The price covers return travel for two people between April 7 and May 22. Details: 0181-569 4646.

■ ROYAL BRUNEI flights to Perth costs £545 when you book by March 31 and travel between April 15 and June 15. Details from Travelmood, 0171-258 0280.

HOLIDAYS

HALF-BOARD accommodation in Sorrento for a week at £299 a person is available from Page & Moy. Fly from Birmingham tomorrow. Details: 0116-250 7116.

■ EASTER in a villa overlooking Lake Orta in northern Italy is on offer at a discount from Lakes & Mountains Holidays. Priced from £122 a person a week, including Channel ferry crossing, and available from March 22 to April 5. Details: 01329 844405.

■ DISCOUNTED green fees are available for golfers staying at Something Special villas in the Algarve. Price: £169 a person for a week over Easter (flights extra); £248 a person after Easter, with flights and car hire. Details: 01992 552231.

■ MALTA for a week's self-catering for £179 a person, with a flight from Manchester on April 3. Details: Going Places, 0541 555334.

■ HORSE-RIDING in Andalucia for a week, with a flight from Gatwick to Gibraltar on April 5, is on offer from Inntravel. Price: £877 a person including full board at a riding centre with swimming pool and excursions. Details: 01653 628862.

■ VIENNA and Budapest, linked by a Hydrofoil cruise down the Danube, feature in a four-night break from Time Off, available from April 5 and priced from £499 a person. Details: 0171-235 8070.

■ GOA for a fortnight for £429 a person in B&B accommodation is available from Cosmos. Fly from Gatwick on April 12. Details: 0161-480 5799.

■ EAST COAST cities of the US and Niagara Falls are included in a nine-day coach trip with Archers for £629 a person. The flight goes from Heathrow on April 15. Details: 0181-466 6745.

■ CRUISE discounts are available from Lunn Poly, including more than £1,000 off a 12-night Pacific cruise to Hawaii and Honolulu. Fly from Heathrow on April 22. Details from Lunn Poly Holiday Shops.

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Seychelles beach hotel holidays for £699 a person for 12 nights in April are available from Tropical Places. Flights from Gatwick or Manchester. Details: 01342 825123.

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THE NEW *Getaway Breaks* brochure from Best Western hotels details short-break stays at hundreds of British hotels starting from £31 a person a night. Details: 0181-541 0033.

■ EXECUTIVE travellers who join Regal Hotel's business-class corporate rates programme will get lower rates and a 10 per cent discount on other charges, such as food, beverages and phone calls. Details: 01635 527600.

■ FORTE Village in Sardinia is reopening at Easter with a three-night package from £300 a person, excluding flights. The package includes sports and spa activities. Details: 00 39 70921 516.

■ LATE EASTER availability at the Landmark Hotel, near Marylebone Station, London, means a £149-a-night room rate, with free valet parking, over the holiday weekend. Details: 0171-631 8000.

■ SUMMER packages from the Peninsular Hotels Group, available from June 15 until September 15, include a 20 per cent discount on all suites. Hotels are in Hong Kong, Beijing, Manila, New York and Los Angeles. Reservations through Preferred Hotels. Details: 0800 893391.

■ THE special rate at the all-suite Conrad International Hotel at Chelsea Harbour, West London, from tomorrow until April 6 is £130 plus VAT a suite a night. Two children under-12 can stay free when sharing their parents' suite. Details: 0171-823 3000.

■ OAKLEY COURT Hotel, near Windsor, has a number of themed weekends — including sports weekends, such as a two-night fishing break from £209 a person, or a visit to nearby Legoland from £146 a person for two nights including theme park entry. Details: 01753 609988.

■ THE Drury Lane Moat House near Covent Garden in central London has a two-night offer until April 6 of £100 a person instead of the usual £138. Extra nights cost £50 a person. Offer available through Highlife Breaks. Details: 0800 700400.

FERRIES

SEA FRANCE has joined its Dover rivals in extending its advance-booking deals, offering any 1997 Calais return for £89, for bookings before March 31. Valid for a car and up to five passengers. Details: 0990 711711.

■ BRITTANY FERRIES has a new £9.95 fare for foot passengers to France, allowing up to 24 hours on shore. Cars cost an extra £10. Available until May 15, excluding Easter. Details: 0990 360360.

■ IRISH Ferries has cut daytime prices to £50 each way on its Pembroke-Rosslare route for a car and five passengers, until May 21 (excluding Easter). Night crossings cost £49. Details: 0345 171717.

■ SWANSEA Cork Ferries has a £155 midweek return, for a car and five adults, for travel by May 21 (excluding Easter). Details: 01792 456116.

■ SCANDINAVIAN Seaways has nine nights in a leisure park in Holland from £170 a person, using the Newcastle-Amsterdam route on April 3. Details: 0990 333111.

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THE TIMES ON SATURDAY

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Travel show previews new British attractions

BY TONY DAWE

THE FIRST glimpse of ambitious new tourist attractions expected to woo visitors in their millions could be seen yesterday as leaders of the British travel industry celebrated its new buoyancy.

The £15 million National Centre for Popular Music in Sheffield and the £16 million National Glass Centre in Sunderland were previewed at the British Travel Trade Fair at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham.

The projects reflect the vast amount of investment being ploughed into tourism, much of it coming from National Lottery funds. More than 500 exhibitors are displaying their attractions, including Alton Towers, which unveiled its latest white-knuckle ride called Ripsaw, and Wedgwood, which plans a new Visitor Experience for next year.

Several exhibitors showed plans for millennium projects, among them the £112 million Portsmouth Harbour scheme which will provide the city with waterfront museums and attractions, and the £34 million Earth Centre in the Dearne Valley of South Yorkshire.

Scores of tourist boards are also taking part, including Bronte Country Tourism, which yesterday launched plans for Great British Literary Tours, and Worthing council, which revealed details of a Victorian Seaside Festival this August.

They are all attempting to impress the thousands of tour operators, many from overseas, who are visiting the fair, which continues today. Fiona Jeffery, the exhibition director, said: "Anyone seeking inspiration for tours anywhere in Britain will be impressed by the wide range of upgraded products and the new visitor attractions planned for the next few years."

The variety of attractions underline the continued growth of tourism, one of Britain's booming industries. Latest figures from the International Passenger Survey show that the number of overseas visits to Britain increased to 26 million last year, a rise of 8 per cent. Domestic tourism is also growing: the number of trips this year is expected to increase by between 2 and 3 per cent.

While London, York and Stratford-upon-Avon continue to attract the bulk of overseas tourists and the West Country remains the favourite destination for British travellers, leaders of the travel industry in Scotland and Wales also report increases in the number of visitors.

Ian Grant, the Scottish Tourist Board's chairman, said yesterday that the country was "winning the battle" to attract visitors, especially the English, out of season. He added: "It is clear that our campaigns, together with the support of the trade, are producing tangible results. Scotland is now known as a short-break leisure and business destination throughout the year; it is recognised as offering style, culture and quality."

John French, the Wales Tourist Board chief executive, said: "Tourism in Wales is experiencing an exciting time, with a 31 per cent increase in overseas visitors in the first half of last year.

"The industry is gaining in confidence, announcing new products at the fair, including the Festival Park factory shopping complex at Ebbw Vale, the Welsh Gold Visitor Centre in Dolgellau and the National Cycle Exhibition at Llandrindod Wells."

He said that the European summit in Cardiff next year and the Rugby World Cup in 1999 would put the country in the world spotlight. Investment in new hotels and attractions, including the National Botanic Garden, would, he claimed, make Wales "an unmissable destination".



New hotels, including what will be the tallest in the world, are being built to cope with Dubai's thriving tourist trade

Dubai hotels reach for the sky in battle for tourists

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT IN DUBAI

BRITISH tourists who are bored with the Mediterranean and the Caribbean are turning to the travel industry's favourite holiday destination — Dubai.

The tiny Gulf state, which regularly tops the travel trade's internal league table of the most popular places to visit, is in such demand that new hotels — including what will become the tallest in the world — are being built along the shoreline.

"Until now we have concentrated on the business traveller, building the infrastructure and educating the travel industry on what we have to offer," says Patrick MacDonald, deputy chief executive of tourism and commerce for Dubai. "But we have come of age and matured, so now we can provide for the holidaymaker and the leisure traveller."

More than 40 British tour operators feature Dubai in their summer brochures, and locals are convinced that within the next five years the Emirate could become one of the world's leading "playgrounds".

Tourism accounts for 12 per cent of Dubai's gross national product and is growing fast. Oil, on which the country was founded, now provides only 18 per cent of its income and is still shrinking. It is predicted that within five years tourism will have overtaken oil as the most important sector of the economy.

Last year 110,000 visitors arrived from Britain, most of them aged over 40. But the fastest-growing numbers of tourists are from the former Soviet Union, India, Pakistan and other Arab states.

"We are already recognised as the main tourism centre for this region but now we are extending into the rest of the world," says Mr MacDonald.

The state has an "open skies" policy and 80 international airlines now operate the Dubai route.

The country's airline, Emirates, which consistently wins awards from travel publications and organisations around the world, is expanding to meet the surge in demand for flights.

"About 75 per cent of our revenue now comes from the economy section of our aircraft," says Maurice Flanagan, managing director of Emirates. "Many of these are business travellers who are no longer allowed to fly in business class because their company wants to save money on travel expenses. That is why we have decided to put a telephone and video equipment in every seat, whatever the class of travel, and to give passengers more leg room than our competitors. But with the Government's plan to ensure that the country is not dependent on oil, we are turning more and more towards meeting the demands of tourism."

Sport has been the major attraction for high-spending visitors. Some of the most prestigious events from golf to tennis are held in Dubai, and next week the world's richest horse race — the Dubai World Cup — will be watched by 20,000 people in the stadium and at least a billion on television in 197 countries.

Thirteen of the fastest horses from Britain, the Continent, Japan, Australia, Brazil, America and Dubai have been entered for the race, which carries prize money of $4 million — but with no betting allowed on the outcome anywhere in Dubai.

Building is going on everywhere as Dubai grows to meet the surge in demand. The biggest development is the Chicago Beach resort, where 600 rooms are due to open next year. The complex includes a 1,059ft-high hotel built in the shape of a dhow under sail, which will be linked to the beach by a bridge. The hotel is expected to prove particularly popular with wealthy Arab visitors.

"We believe that the Chicago beach tower will become a symbol of Dubai as the Eiffel Tower is a symbol of Paris," Mr MacDonald says.

Duty-free end worries the big suppliers



The Travel Business
HARVEY ELLIOTT

AS THE Cheltenham Festival was taking place in perfect weather last week, a disgruntled man from Guinness — one of the event's main sponsors — was having to attend a London press conference to talk about duty-free sales.

Missing the races did not especially worry him. The galling thing was that he could tell no one really understood or cared about the disaster — the ending of duty-free sales — that many in the travel, drinks, tobacco, perfumes and other associated industries are convinced is just around the corner.

Obviously, Guinness has a vested interest in maintaining the perk, which is enjoyed by more than 30 million British travellers and holidaymakers each year. As the owner of such well-known brands as Johnnie Walker, Bells, Dewars and Gordons, Guinness stands to lose tens of millions of pounds. And it is not alone in its opposition to the regulations. The visit to the duty-free shop at either end of the journey or the last-minute present bought during the return flight has become an integral part of any trip within Europe. But in July 1999, in the interests of harmony within Europe, such visits will be banned.

> Regional airports and ferry routes might be threatened

The experts predicted last week that the move would cost the Treasury at least £18 million a year, destroy 1,500 jobs, hit manufacturing and retail profits by up to £345 million and put regional airports at risk.

In a detailed survey of the likely effects of the planned abolition of intra-European duty-free sales from July 1999, the European Travel Research Foundation says that the myth that duty-free sales are no more than a subsidy to travellers is destroyed.

The study was commissioned by the Duty Free Confederation which represents airports, airlines, ferry companies and the entire British duty-free industry, which now has sales worth more than £1 billion a year.

The decision in 1991 to phase out the concession was meant to come into force a year later. But ministers agreed to postpone implementation until 1999.

Barry Goddard, the confederation's secretary-general, says: "There is no justification for it, and the only argument put forward in its favour is that it is inconsistent with the single market. Amazingly, the European Commission has not yet studied what impact it would make on the different member countries, despite repeated promises to do so. So we did our own research."

The first report concentrates only on the economic impact on Treasury "take". But early indications from parallel studies indicate that many ferry routes would be put in financial danger, the regional airports that rely on duty-free sales to keep down landing fees might be threatened by the additional costs and that passengers — especially on holiday charter flights — would have to pay up to £15 each to cover the lost revenue.

Copies of the first report have already been sent to the Conservative and Labour parties and officials and MPs throughout Europe.

The man from Guinness and his colleagues fear that little notice will be taken. After all, nothing will happen for more than two years, too far in the future for most politicians or civil servants to worry about.

Prices halved as ferry war rages

BY STEVE KEENAN

BRITTANY Ferries has halved prices on selected cross-Channel fares from West Country ports.

The move comes as a price war out of Dover continues to rage. Sea France this week offered any 1997 crossing for £89, undercutting rival fares already two-thirds cheaper than last summer's peak.

Brittany's managing director Ian Carrathurs said the decision to slash prices was aimed at filling off-peak ferries. The market to France is in fact buoyant, he said.

Standard return fares from Portsmouth, Poole and Plymouth are £140 for a car and up to five passengers, compared with brochure prices of up to £300.

Mr Carrathurs claimed 1997 bookings were up by 25 to 26 per cent, with the Plymouth-Roscoff route up by 30 per cent.

Sea France became the latest ferry operator this week to extend early booking offers, with its £89 fare valid for any 1997 Dover-Calais crossing as long as it is booked by the end of the month.

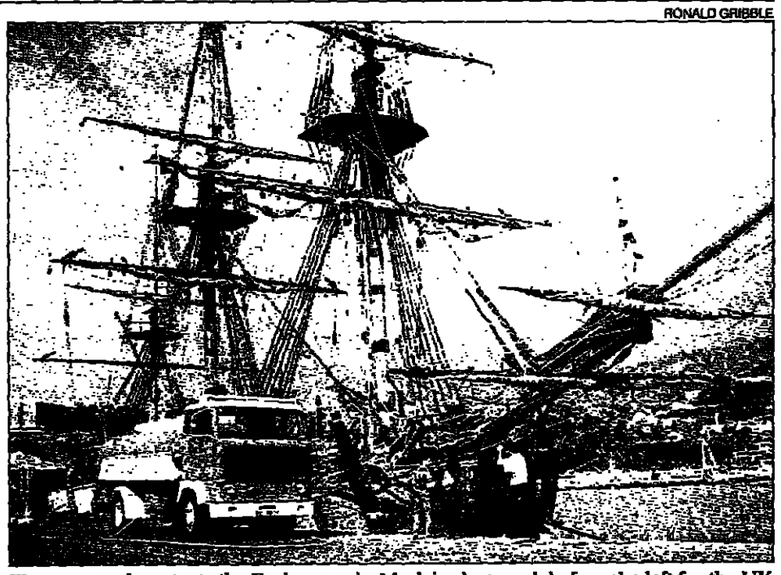
P&O is offering any 1997 crossing on Dover-Calais for £145 until April 30, while Hoverspeed is quoting £99 on the route for bookings by March 31.

Le Shuttle has a £149 fare for bookings by the end of the month and Stena Line has knocked 25 per cent off brochure fares for bookings made by the same time.

THE TIMES ON SATURDAY

Ulster special
What's new in European theme parks
Weekend break: Iceland
Travel in Turkey
In the Amazon rainforest
Ski by Eurostar
Travel tips

RONALD GRIBBLE



Firemen supply water to the *Endeavour* in Madeira last week before she left for the UK

Endeavour's royal arrival

BY RONALD GRIBBLE

THE QUEEN and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit the £8 million replica of Captain Cook's ship *Endeavour* when she arrives in London next week from Australia.

Sightseers will be able to see the 18th-century style square rigger on Tuesday at 1.45pm and 2.15pm when she sails down the Thames and under Tower Bridge, firing her cannons, before anchoring at St George's stairs near Butler's Wharf, opposite the Tower.

The Queen and the Duke, who is president of the Endeavour Foundation, which built the ship from original plans kept at the National Maritime Museum, will go aboard on Wednesday and meet the 52-strong crew from Britain, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. Some of them have been on the ship since she left Fremantle, Australia, five months ago.

The *Endeavour* will be open to the public at Greenwich from March 28 to April 13, before beginning a six-month 12-point tour of the UK. The ship will be dressed with artefacts as if Captain Cook and his crew had gone ashore. Visitors will be able to see the conditions under which Cook's pioneering voyages of exploration were made.

To coincide with *Endeavour's* arrival at Greenwich, the National Maritime Museum is to stage a Captain Cook exhibition in the Queen's House from next Monday to September 28 and unveil a Cook statue in the grounds.

● The *Endeavour's* UK itinerary:
Great Yarmouth (April 19-28)
Boston (May 2-5)
Whitby (May 10-18)
Leith, Edinburgh (May 24-June 1)
Inverness (June 7-15)
Greenock (June 28-July 6)
Liverpool (July 11-20)
Fishguard (July 26-August 3)
Falmouth (August 9-17)
Plymouth (August 23-31)
Weymouth (September 6-9)
Brighton (September 13-21)

Afterwards the *Endeavour* leaves for a nine-day exhibition at **St Helier, Jersey** (September 27-October 5) and in **St Malo** (October 7-12), before returning to Plymouth on Friday October 17. She will then be refurbished before preparing for a voyage to the United States.

Airport food wins prizes

BY ROBIN YOUNG

EGON RONAY, long-time scourge of motorway stations and British institutional catering, has a new vocation, weighing croissants and Danish pastries at British airports. Mr Ronay now operates an inspection service for BAA, the airport operator.

The results of his researches were announced last week at Claridge's, West London, of awards to the outlet that supplied the lightest, most flavoursome example of each pastry: the BA lounge, Glasgow, for the lightest croissant, and Metro, Heathrow's Terminal 3, for the lightest and most flavoursome Danish.

Mr Ronay, veteran Public Stomach Number One, now operates an inspection service for BAA, the airport operator.

Other awards went to Harry Ramsden's for the most appetising breakfast at Terminal 1 Heathrow, and for best chips, served at the chain's Glasgow Airport branch. Prêt à Manger at Terminal 1 Heathrow took the title for tastiest sandwich with its Thai Chicken compilation.

EXCLUSIVE OFFER AND COMPETITION THE TIMES

Win a course to become an interior designer

Times readers have the chance to win a five-day Paint Magic course run by Jocasta Innes called *Becoming a Decorator*. The popular course, which is held every month, usually costs £530.

The course is introduced by Jocasta Innes, widely known for her innovative approach to interior decorating and paint effects, and taught by her team of experts. You learn practical skills, what equipment to invest in, advice on setting up your own business, how to design your portfolio and quote for jobs. For your nearest Paint Magic shop please call 0171-354 9696.



PAINT magic Jocasta Innes

HOW TO ENTER
Phone our hotline **0839 444 546** with your answer to:
Which BBC homes programme is Jocasta Innes on?
a) Home Front b) House Detectives c) Changing Rooms
The line is open until midnight tonight. Winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries. Normal TNL rules apply. 0839 calls cost 50p per minute. See tomorrow's *Times* for exquisite kilim stools.

FREE tickets for the BBC *Good Homes Show*

Plus a £10,000 Miele fitted kitchen to be won

The Times offers you a FREE ticket, worth at least £7.50, for the first ever BBC *Good Homes Show* at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, from April 9-13. Collect three differently numbered tokens and send them, with a stamped sae marked on the front with which day you wish to attend and the application form which will appear again on Saturday. Your name will automatically be entered into a prize draw to win the Miele kitchen, left.



Among the many live performances you can see in the Lloyds Bank Insurance Direct Celebrity Theatre are designers from *Changing Rooms* who will demonstrate speedy tricks for room makeovers, *Home Front's* Jocasta Innes and Tessa Shaw will put you on the inside track for a speedy sale at the right price, and *House Detectives* Judith Miller, David Austen and Mac Dowdy will help you to unlock the secret past life of your home.

Call 0121 767 4000 to pre-book theatre and show admission tickets. (For a Miele brochure call 01235 554488.)

THE TIMES
THE BBC GOOD HOMES SHOW
TOKEN 4

CHANGING TIMES

GOLF

Ballesteros likely to win vote over Ryder Cup reform

FROM MEL WEBB IN GRAN CANARIA

AFTER months of relentless and, at times, curt refusal to talk about the Europe Ryder Cup team that he will captain against the United States at Valderrama in September, Severiano Ballesteros broke his self-imposed silence yesterday to give his frankest thoughts yet on the composition of the team.

It has been known for some time that Ballesteros is not happy with the present system, under which ten players will earn their way into the team as of right, leaving him with only two wild-card selections. Perhaps it was the warmth of the Canary Islands sun that led him to such forthrightness, but it was a blunt Ballesteros who spoke of his desire to have the best Europe team, while behind his remarks was an unspoken readiness to ruffle the feathers of even some of European golf's more exotic species.

Ballesteros said that he had spoken to Mark James, the chairman of the PGA European Tour's tournament committee, the body that represents the rank and file members, requesting that James should ask the players if they would approve Ballesteros having up to four selections in addition to those who earn their places off the money-list.

A players' meeting was held during the Portuguese Open last week, at which it is understood that the feeling was in favour. About 200 European tournament professionals are now to be balloted, with the captain being given three selections as the most probable compromise.

"I think I am going to get something out of it," Ballesteros said on the eve of the Turespaña Masters, that starts today here at Maspalomas. "I don't think it's unfair to change the system, but obviously it's going to be more difficult to finish in the top eight than the top ten in the points table.

"It would not be fair to change the rules in July or August after many big tournaments have been played, but we're only halfway through [the selection process]. It's very clear, very simple: I just want the best players in the team.

"Valderrama is a very difficult golf course that demands special players, and I don't want people getting a place in the team in ninth or tenth place just by playing every week. Extra picks would give me the scope to select — but maybe later on I would go straight through the top 12."

That statement might be seen as an indirect admonition, in particular, to Nick Faldo, who has said that he will not be playing the minimum number of 11 qualifying tournaments to earn his way in. However, it can be be no more than sabre-rattling — no matter what Ballesteros thinks of players who refuse point-blank to try to win a place in the team, it would be inconceivable for him to leave Faldo out.

"The only rule is that it is 12 men against 12," Ballesteros said. "I don't really care about the American side's rules. I only care about my responsibility to have the best team to play for Europe." Faldo concurs. "Something needs to be done," he said yesterday. "The bottom line is that we must have the strongest team."

If Ballesteros's plans are approved by the players — the ballot form is being prepared — it would help him to avoid the sort of hiatus that occurred before the 1995 match. Bernard Gallacher, the captain, selected Nick Faldo and José María Olazábal, but omitted Ian Woosnam before Olazábal's foot problems, then in their early stages, led him to withdraw.

Woosnam was promptly brought back into the team, but the fact remained that the captain was forced by the rules to leave one of his best players out of his original line-up.

Europe won the last Ryder Cup match in spite of the rules, not because of them, and it is now up to Europe's tournament professionals to help Ballesteros to put matters right before it is too late.

Davies strides out to make it four in a row

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

A LOT of people, not just golfers, would like to be in Laura Davies's shoes. Last year, she won nine tournaments and more than £1 million worldwide, bought herself a red Ferrari (second-hand), entertained and impressed big galleries from Tokyo to Tennessee to Thame, was player of the year on the Ladies' Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Tour in the United States and leading money-winner on the American Express Tour in Europe.

The woman has style, class, fans everywhere she goes and, apparently, zero clout when it comes to selling cleats. In the first quarter to August 1996, the company that pays Tiger Woods many millions to wear its little tick recorded profits of $226.1 million [£143 million]. Its worldwide revenues rose 34 per cent to $2.28 billion. Last year, it offered Davies $5,000 to wear its shoes.

In the American idiom, she was more ticked off than tempted. "I thought it best for my golf not to accept," she said, with some sarcasm. "I mean, it would have changed my whole lifestyle — I'd have been buying aeroplanes and all sorts.

"I'd worn their shoes for five or six years and been part of their bonus pool, but then I thought it was silly not to have a shoe contract. Now, I don't even buy their other shoes any more and I used to like them a lot."

It is not for lack of effort or achievement on Davies's part. Today, she is in Phoenix, Arizona, attempting to win the Standard Register Ping tournament at Moon Valley for the fourth successive year. Louise Suggs, Sandra Haynie and Kathy Whitworth, all members of the Hall of Fame, won a tournament three times in a row but no player on the LPGA Tour has ever managed a quad.

Davies, who missed the cut in Tucson last week, plays down her chances. "It can't keep on," she said. "My luck here has to run out."

There must be a law to support that theory — and Karrie Webb and Annika Sorenstam, who have thwarted the odd Davies dream in the past two years, have started the season well — but, Davies also said: "I've never been hitting the ball better.

"Last week it was a miracle of sport not to make the cut. I played well and putted well but holed nothing." In the second round, she had a nine at the 16th, a par-five where she was hitting a six-iron for her second shot but put three balls into the water and holed from 20 feet for her quadruple bogey.

That particular quad could prove more omen than ominous — the last time Davies missed the cut in Tucson was 1996.

St Edward's prove head masters



TOM HEVEZ

Spectators jostle for the best view as the crews go under Hammersmith Bridge in the Schools Head yesterday

ST EDWARD'S, accustomed to the still waters of Oxford, survived the Tideway in one of its hostile moods yesterday to snatch the Schools Head title from St Paul's by one second (Mike Rosewell writes). High winds prompted the organisers to abandon the youngest age groupings but this still left 273 crews to face the strong head winds at the start and an unsettling tail wind at the finish.

Bill Sayer, returning as the St Edward's first-eight coach after a break of six years, kept instructions simple. "Push hard through the difficult patch and then build it up," Sayer told his crew. Starting seventh, St Edward's had more close company in their row than St Paul's, whose new coach, Andy Mayfield, inherited the first starting place. St Paul's, with the junior internationals, Dan Snow and Dan Ouseley, in the engine-room, moved steadily away from Eton, the 1995 winners, who dropped to eighth, their lowest placing for many years.

The runners-up were seven seconds clear of Hampton and Abingdon, who shared third place. Their respective coaches, Martin Orviss and Michael Martin, both supervised leading British junior crews last summer, the latter taking the Britain junior eight to a world championship bronze.

Reinforcing the Oxford-based success of St Edward's and Abingdon, Radley, whose coach, Angus McChesney, has been receiving help from the Cambridge coaches, Donald Legget and Harry Mahon, moved up to fifth. Radley's future looks bright with wins for their third eight and the flagship junior 16s.

Lady Eleanor Holles and Kingston Grammar once again headed the women's eights. Holles took the title, won last year by Kingston, by two seconds — the same margin as in the longer Women's Head a fortnight ago. King's Canterbury produced the outstanding women's quad of the day, 50sec ahead of their nearest rival and some consolation for the school's boys' first eight, who withdrew after a pre-race collision.

Results, page 52

IN BRIEF

England secure matchplay finale

SO PREDICTABLE was the play in the women's home international bowls series at Perth yesterday, that the greatest excitement was generated by the draw for rinks in the morning team match between Scotland and Wales (David Rhys Jones writes). Big wins, as expected, for England, the defending champions, and Scotland, served merely to set up an intriguing "knock-out" play-off for the title today.

The day's main talking point was the way in which the draw placed all six Scottish fours on the same rinks that they had occupied against Ireland the day before, giving them, critics said, a distinct advantage. Officials, however, were quick to point out that the draw was above board, having been made by the secretaries of the two competing countries.

Scotland overwhelmed a weak Wales side 144-94, but England, just as Scotland had on Tuesday, found Ireland slightly more troublesome opponents, before securing a 131-103 victory.

☐ **Golf:** José María Olazábal, of Spain, has accepted an invitation to compete in the European round of the Andersen Consulting world championship of golf. Olazábal is the eighth and final seed for the tournament to be held at the Buckinghamshire Golf Club in Denham on May 19 and 20. ☐ Nigel Mansell, the former Formula One world champion, and John Putt lost 2 and 1 in the second round of the Sunningdale Foursomes yesterday to Andrew Reynolds and Andrew Hall.

☐ **Ice hockey:** There are no surprises in the squad of 23 named by Peter Woods, the Great Britain coach, for the pool B game of the world championships to be held in Poland next month. In spite of Woods's pledge to bring in new and young players after Britain failed to qualify for the Olympic Games earlier this year, the emphasis is still on veterans and dual-nationals.

☐ **Rugby union:** England's prospects of retaining their Rugby World Cup sevens title in Hong Kong dimmed yesterday with an injury doubt surrounding Mike Catt. Catt, the Bath stand-off half, will undergo a fitness test today on the injury that he sustained in a gentle run-out soon after England arrived on Monday.

☐ **Speedway:** Belle Vue have signed Kelvin Tatum, a former world finalist and England captain, as an early season stand-in. Tatum, 33, has agreed to a short-term contract as replacement for Sam Ermolenko, the 1993 world champion, who is recovering from a broken leg.

RUGBY UNION: LOUGHBOROUGH FAIL ONCE MORE AT FINAL HURDLE

Brunel's lineout engineers victory

Brunel Univ College..... 9
Loughborough Univ..... 8

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

LOUGHBOROUGH University, so often the champions of student rugby, have lost the knack of winning finals. A year ago they were edged out by the hard-headed Welshmen of Cardiff Institute in the British Universities Sports Association championship final, and at Twickenham yesterday they lost by a point when they should have won.

They had ample opportunity to do so, but Stuart Moffat, the scorer of the game's only try, had left his kicking boots in the Midlands. Of six penalty attempts, he could convert only one, and, though Alan Buzza's conversion attempt of the try drifted wide, his kicking style looked so much smoother than that of Moffat that Loughborough will regret not having changed kickers earlier.

Yet it was in keeping with the match that, having forced a lineout 15 metres from the Brunel University College line deep into added time, Loughborough promptly lost the throw. The lineout was their Achilles' heel, ruled as it was by Danny Zaltzman, from Saracens, and Craig Gillies, from Bath. The sadness for Brunel — who, as Borough Road Institute, won the final two years ago — was that they could not expand their game.

Instead, they chose to drive close to ruck and maul, playing into the hands of the powerful Loughborough back row. Only once, midway through the second half, did the Brunel forwards genuinely threaten the Loughborough line, but by then Loughborough had established some lineout organisation and were able to clear.

These are trying times for student rugby, the better players invariably being snapped up by clubs and playing for their universities only intermittently, and it showed yesterday. There was a lack of snap and sparkle, and of the pace that was so frequently associated with Loughborough in their heyday. To their credit, they tried to move the ball wide from the start, but found themselves turned over and forced to back-pedal.

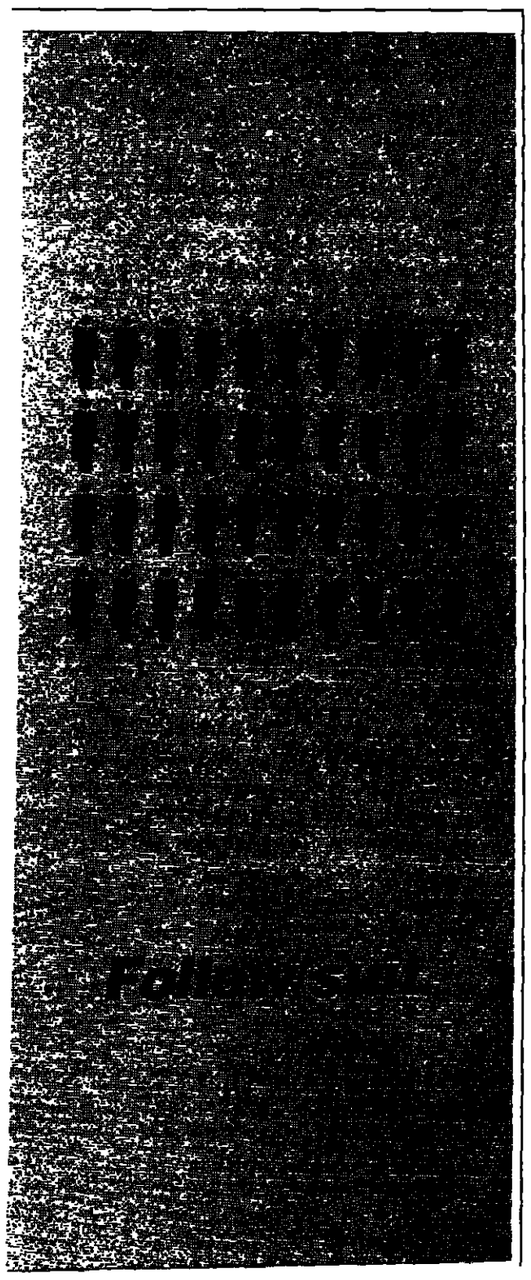
Harvey's early penalty goal for Brunel was matched by Moffat before the interval and when the latter joined the line in the third quarter, Brunel's defenders stood off respectfully and allowed him to career 40 metres to the line. However Harvey's second goal narrowed the gap and his third, with five minutes remaining, gave them the slimmest of winning margins.

SCORERS: *Brunel University College:* Penalty goals: Harvey (3). Loughborough University: Try: Moffat. Penalty goal: Moffat.

BRUNEL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE: D Dunlop (Ballyclare HS); R Francis (Walton HS), M Deane (St Joan of Arc), C Davis (Ryburn Valley HS), P Perry (Warden Park); D Ballard (Maiden Erlegh), B Harvey (St Thomas HS); S Turner (Devonport HS), S Rodgers (The Leys), I Peel (Upper Nidderdale HS), D Muckalt (Ripley St Thomas C of E, captain), D Zaltzman (Campion), C Gillies (Tiverton), P Volley (Lord Williams's, Thame), C Palmer (Dulwich). Turner replaced by D Alexopoulos (Millfield, 28min); Francis replaced by P Morgan (Penrhos CS, 57); C Tytherleigh (Teddington) temporary replacement for Rodgers (42-44).

LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY: S Moffat (Edinburgh Academy); N Miller (Bradford GS), A Buzza (Redruth CS), S Brocklehurst (Sevenoaks), N Malone (Wells Cathedral); N Osman (King Edward VI, Southampton, captain), A Dart (King's, Taunton); R Tarrant (Blatchams), R Protherough (King's, Worcester), E Webb (Eltham), J Beardshaw (Gresham's), W Fuller (Eton), R White (Bryanston), R Winters (Haywards Heath College), G Webster (Oundle). Tarrant replaced by S Beaufoy (Wyggeston and Queen Elizabeth, 51).

Referee: A Rowden (Berkshire).



STONYHURST FOURSOMES

SECOND ROUND: New Course: G Smith (Camberley Heath) and W Riley (Aus) bt T Eaton (Nuneaton) and A Rodgers (Costa Azul) 6 and 5; T Charnley (unattached) and D Charlton (Tilsworth) bt D Hart and R Watts (Lambourn) 6 and 5; S Robinson and E Dungleby (Melton and Norton) bt J Earl (Reid) and I Dryden (Chartham Park) 6 and 4; D Griffiths (West Herts) and A Frame (St Medan) bt O Lindsay (Aungiers) and K Hannah (Berkhamsted) 3 and 2; S Little (Moor Park) and S Jarmen (Woburn) bt G Stewart (Real Club) and J Forbes (WPGET) 5 and 4; A Reynolds (Royal Cinque Ports) and A Hall (Sand Martins) bt J Putt (Sunningdale) and N Mansell (Woodbury Park) 3 and 1; S Gallagher (Trentham Park) and R Fisher (Newcastle-under-Lyme) bt B Marchbank (Marchbank Golf Enterprises) and W Marchbank (Auchterarder) 3 and 2; G Redford and M Hastie (Turnberry) bt A Clark (Old Fold Manor) and N Lawrence (A1 Driving Range) 1 hole; M Palmer (Mill Ride) and G Walmsley (Dukes Drive) bt J Tucker (Worplesdon) and G Hickman (Churston) 2 and 1; N Burke (Horsham) and W Grant (Chessington) bt P Carr (Sunningdale) and R Hodgkinson (Lindrick) at 20th; R Hurst (unattached) and T Paterson (Leatherhead) bt M Searle (Lyme Regis) and J Pounder (Yeovil) 3 and 2; C Delay and W Delay (Coombe Hill) bt S Roberts and C Coombes (Bergvliet) 2 and 1; A Good and R Summerscales (Foxhills) bt I Roper and T Markwick (Cornhampton) 3 and 2; J Robinson (The Vale) and D Jones (Three Rivers) bt M King (Sunningdale) and J Healey (Hull) 3 and 1; T McInally and R Cammans (Wisley) bt L Jones (Trent Park) and R Hurd (Manor of Groves) 3 and 1; S Murray (Chorleham Park) and C Ledger (Hassocks) bt T Stevens (Warrington) and J Lamb (West Wilts) at 19th Old Course; J Kemp and M Wilcox (John O'Gaunts) bt L Walters (Chevin) and R Fenwick (George Pilege) 3 and 1; M Roberts and I Campbell (Sunningdale) bt J Donaldson (Macclesfield) and N Evans (Plassington) 5 and 4; K Godfrey and S Chapman (St Enodoc) bt L Fickling and M Deal (Enfield) 3 and 1; S Vale (Whittington) and P Smith (Harefield) bt R Lewis (Sunningdale) and A Rosenfeld (Highgate) 4 and 3; T Cook and D King (Frilford Heath) bt R Watkins (Bruce Vale) and D Burnside (Almeer Hoath 2 and 1; I Reay (Bury) and D MacKinnon (Fleetwood) bt M Newmand (Manningtree Heath) and A Bott (Lipbook) 3 and 2; P Sherman (Ashford) and P Page (Dartford) bt J Chilas (Glenervie) and M Gray (Ladybank) 2 holes; I Parker and M Thompson (Ferndown) bt C Pamton-Lewis (Macdonalds) and M Devetta (Sunningdale) 1 hole; M James (Banstead Downs) and C Rodgers (Royal Mid-Surrey) bt W Stephens (Whittlesham) and M Gares (unattached) 2 and 1; N Harrington and J Doherty (Worthing) bt J Challen (Olive Nova) and C Challen (Stoke Poges) 5 and 4; J Hall (Ladyacre) and H Wadsworth (WPGET) bt L Richardson (Worcester) and P Adams (unattached) 3 and 2; G Hutcheon (Knole Park) and F McGuirk (Prince's) 2 and 1; L Owens (Royal Dublin) and B McGovern (Headfort) bt D Hudspith and J Carter (Woodcote Park) 3 and 2; S Whitlin and J Jones (Enfield) bt S Geary and C Duffy (Maidenhead) 5 and 3; R Ellis and M Naylor (Redcliffe-on-Trent) bt M Forsman (Mid Kent) and N Hanson (North Foreland) at 19th; K Maxwell (Sunningdale) and A Johnstone (Elm) bt G Edge (Moseley) and T Allen (Moorlake Park) 2 holes

THIRD ROUND: Old Course: Smith and Riley bt Charnley and Charlton 1 hole; Griffiths and Frame bt Robinson and Dungleby 4 and 3; Reynolds and Hall bt Little and Jarman 5 and 4; Gallagher and Fisher bt Redford and Hastie 3 and 2; Kemp and Wilcox bt Roberts and Campbell 2 and 1; Vale and Smith bt Godfrey and Chapman 2 holes; Palmer and Walmsley bt Burke and Grant 3 and 2; Reay and Mackinnon bt Craik and King at 19th; Sherman and Page bt Parker and Thompson 3 and 2; James and Rodgers bt Harrington and Doherty 4 and 3; Delay and Delay bt Hurst and Paterson 4 and 2; Robinson and Jones bt Good and Summerscales 1 hole; Murray and Ledger bt McInally and Cammans 3 and 2; Hall and Wadsworth bt Hutcheon and McGuirk 2 and 1; Whitlin and Jones bt Owens and McGovern 1 hole; Ellis and Naylor bt Maxwell and Johnstone 2 and 1

Open favourites fall on first day

THE Open tournament, the Rosslyn Park schools sevens' most prestigious event, began yesterday, with mixed fortunes for the pre-tournament favourites (a Correspondent writes).

Stonyhurst, the holders from Lancashire, failed to progress from the group stages after losing 19-12 to Wallington Grammar School and 24-10 to Campion, Essex.

Another surprise was Millfield's premature departure from the tournament. The Somerset side, seven times champions, were overrun 47-0 by a powerful Durham team.

It was finals day in the junior and preparatory schools tournaments. Caldicott, from Buckinghamshire, confirmed their reputation as the pre-eminent prep school team, beating Wolborough Hill, from Devon, 19-12, while Donhead beat Manchester Grammar School 21-5 in the junior final.

RESULTS FROM THE ROSSLYN PARK SCHOOLS SEVENS

OPEN TOURNAMENT

GROUP A: Stonyhurst 12 Wallington GS 19; Campion 36 Arnold 5, Wallington GS 30 Bishop Gore 5; Stonyhurst 21 Arnold 5, Stonyhurst 41 Bishop Gore 5; Wallington GS 12 Campion 31; Bishop Gore 19 Arnold 31; Stonyhurst 10 Campion 24; Bishop Gore 5 Campion 48; Wallington GS 21 Arnold 22.

GROUP B: Titlin 10 Pocklington 24; Silcoates 0 Latymer Upper 36; Pocklington 19 Neath 36, Titlin 33 Latymer Upper 21, Titlin 5 Neath 45, Pocklington 41 Silcoates 5, Neath 55 Latymer Upper 0; Titlin 44 Silcoates 0; Neath 53 Silcoates 0; Pocklington 38 Latymer Upper 17

GROUP C: Coopers Co and Coburn 17 Solihull 19; Rydal 28 St Bede's, Manchester 7, Solihull 47 Thomas Picton 0; Coopers Co and Coburn 41 St Bede's 7, Coopers Co and Coburn 40 Sir Thomas Picton 0; Solihull 12 Rydal 19; Sir Thomas Picton 12 St Bede's 54, Coopers Co and Coburn 24 Rydal 10, Sir Thomas Picton 7 Rydal 40; Solihull 5 St Bede's 38

GROUP D: Enfield 24 Gravesend 17, St Edward's, Liverpool 31 Whitchurch 15; Gravesend GS 5 Strode 29, Enfield 0 Whitchurch 49; Enfield 10 Strode 36; Gravesend GS 7 St Edward's 35; Strode 12 Whitchurch 15, Enfield 0 St Edward's 47; Strode 26 St Edward's 29; Gravesend GS 10 Whitchurch 45

GROUP E: Richmond College 12 Chichester HS 19; John Fisher 45 Gunnersbury 7; Chichester HS 17 Kingston College 10; Richmond College 19 Gunnersbury 10, Richmond College 7 Kingston College 28; Chichester HS 0 John Fisher 43, Kingston College 24 Gunnersbury 27; Richmond College 0 John Fisher 50; Kingston College 5 John Fisher 41; Chichester HS 21 Gunnersbury 22

GROUP F: De Aston 24 Broxbourne 10, Mount St Mary's 7 Hawthorn 17; Broxbourne 0 Monmouth CS 36; De Aston 0 Hawthorn 20; De Aston 14 Monmouth CS 29, Broxbourne 7 Mount St Mary's 46; Monmouth CS 20 Hawthorn 22; De Aston 19 Mount St Mary's 29; Monmouth CS 5 Mount St Mary's 22; Broxbourne 12 Hawthorn 19

GROUP G: Hampton 14 City of London Freemen 12, Shambrook 14 Ampleforth 21, City of London Freemen 33 Newcastle-under-Lyme 5; Hampton 21 Ampleforth 14, Hampton 36 Newcastle-under-Lyme 0, City of London Freeman 35 Shambrook 0; Newcastle-under-Lyme 14 Ampleforth 54, Hampton 45 Shambrook 5, Newcastle-under-Lyme 15 Shambrook 24; City of London Freemen 35 Ampleforth 0

GROUP H: Hymers 17 Warwick 17, Chelsehurst and Sidcup wo St Edmund's, Ware; Warwick 22 Nottingham HS 24; Hymers wo St Edmund's; Hymers 10 Nottingham HS 17, Warwick 26 Chelsehurst and Sidcup 12; Nottingham HS wo St Edmund's; Hymers 21 Chelsehurst and Sidcup 10; Nottingham HS 22 Chelsehurst and Sidcup 0; Warwick wo St Edmund's

GROUP I: King's, Macclesfield 17 St Joseph's, Ipswich 34, Maldstone GS 5 RGS High Wycombe 22; St Joseph's 56 Adams GS 0; King's, Macclesfield 28 RGS High Wycombe 12; King's, Macclesfield 43 Adams GS 24; St Joseph's 33 Maldstone GS 21; Adams GS 5 RGS High Wycombe 24, King's, Macclesfield 29 Maidstone GS 5; Adams GS 10 Maidstone GS 51, St Joseph's 38 RGS High Wycombe 7

GROUP J: King Edward VII, Lytham 14 Wimbledon College 38, Paint wo Emanuel; Wimbledon College 24 Wirral GS 10; King Edward VII, Lytham 21 Emanuel 12; King Edward VII, Lytham 0 Wirral GS 34, Wimbledon College wo Paint; Wirral GS wo Paint; Wimbledon College 45 Emanuel 5

GROUP K: Strodes 19 Reigate GS 17, Durham 38 King Henry VIII, Coventry 7, Reigate GS 5 King Edward VI, Camp Hill 33; Strodes 19 King Henry VIII 22, Strodes 12 king Edward VI 35, Reigate GS 5 Durham 38; King Edward VI 43 King Henry VIII 0, Strodes 7 Durham 36, King Edward VI 14 Durham 47; Reigate GS 29 King Henry VIII 10

GROUP L: Merchant Taylors', Liverpool 35 St Olave's, Kent 26, Llandovery 19 Millfield 38; St Olave's 22 John Cleveland 21, Merchant Taylors' 17 Millfield 26, Merchant Taylors' 24 John Cleveland 27; St Olave's 22 Llandovery 12, John Cleveland 19 Millfield 34; Merchant Taylors' 26 Llandovery 33 John Cleveland 5 Llandovery 33, St Olave's 0 Millfield 56

GROUP M: Queen Elizabeth's, Barnet 17 Eltham 36, Greenhill 12 St Benedict's 31; Eltham 53, Pen-y-Dre 0, Queen Elizabeth's 5 St Benedict's 35, Queen Elizabeth's 24 Pen-y-Dre 15; Eltham 38 Greenhill 14; Pen-y-Dre 0 St Benedict's 41; Queen Elizabeth's 14 Greenhill 26, Pen-y-Dre 10 Greenhill 22; Eltham 21 St Benedict's 7

GROUP N: Caerleon 0 Bassaleg 22; London Oratory 0 Manchester GS 19; Bassaleg 7 St Cyres 20; Caerleon 7 Manchester GS 38, Caerleon 14 St Cyres 28, Bassaleg 34 London Oratory 7, St Cyres 33 Manchester GS 14, Caerleon 31 London Oratory 19, St Cyres 54 London Oratory 0; Bassaleg 36 Manchester GS 7

GROUP O: Tasker Milward 26 Dr Challoner's 28, Gordano wo Dartford GS, Dr Challoner's 40 Old Swinford Hospital 12; Tasker Milward 20 Dartford GS 33; Tasker Milward 19 Old Swinford Hospital 22, Dr Challoner's wo Gordano, Old Swinford Hospital 17 Dartford GS 19; Tasker Milward wo Gordano; Old Swinford Hospital wo Gordano, Dr Challoner's 27 Dartford GS 7

GROUP P: Glantaf 40 St George's, Hons 15, Judd wo Bearwood, St George's 26 St Ambrose 17; Glantaf wo Bearwood, Glantaf 38 St Ambrose 7, St George's 12 Judd 33; St Ambrose wo Bearwood, Glantaf 27 Judd 14, St Ambrose 7 Judd 43; St George's wo Bearwood 10.

KNOCKOUT STAGES (group winners' matches): Campion 34 Neath 7; Coopers Co and Coburn 10 St Edward's, Liverpool 36, John Fisher 40 Hawthorne 5; Hampton 31 Nottingham 29; St Joseph's, Ipswich 40 Wimbledon 12; Durham 47 Millfield 0; Eltham 38 St Cyres 7; Dr Challoners 21 Glantaf 35

QUARTER-FINAL DRAW: Campion St Edward's, Liverpool, John Fisher v Hampton, St Joseph's v Durham, Eltham v Glantaf

COLTS TOURNAMENT

GROUP A: Torquay 15 Reading 12, Habardashers' Aske's 17 Stowe 12; Torquay 5 Haberdashers' 5; Reading 0 Stowe 47, Torquay 17 Stowe 31; Reading 12 Habardashers' 19

GROUP B: Arnold 19 Downside 7; Glantaf 22 St Edward's, Oxford 15, Arnold 26 Glantaf 26, Downside 5 St Edward's 27, Arnold 19 St Edward's 15, Downside 14 Glantaf 12.

GROUP C: Aylesbury 22 Christ's Hospital 12; Whitchurch 12 Eton 33; Aylesbury 19 Whitchurch 29; Christ's Hospital 7 Eton 36, Aylesbury 12 Eton 33, Christ's Hospital 7 Whitchurch 20

GROUP D: St Paul's 52 Rutlish 0, King Henry VII, Coventry 7 Oratory 24, St Paul's 35 King Henry VII 17; Rutlish 0 Oratory 33, St Paul's 0 Oratory 24, Rutlish 19 king Henry VII 36

GROUP E: Ellesmere 12 Wellington College 36, St Joseph's, London 0 Llanhari 37; Ellesmere 32 St Joseph's 17, Wellington College 5 Llanhari 33; Ellesmere 14 Llanhari 33; Wellington College 43 St Joseph's 6

GROUP F: Dwr-y-Felin 26 City of London Freemen 5, Verulam 22 Ivybridge 10, Dwr-y-Felin 36 Verulam 19; City of London Freemen 34 Ivybridge 10; Dwy-y-Felin 27 Ivybridge 5; City of London Freemen 36 Verulam 7.

GROUP G: John Cleveland 0 RGS High Wycombe 27; Wimbledon College 10 Lord Williams's, John Cleveland 5 Wimbledon College 26; RGS High Wycombe 39 Lord Williams 0; John Cleveland 5 Lord Williams 37, RGS High Wycombe 29 Wimbledon College 0

GROUP H: Alon Tal 14 London Oratory 22; St Benedict's 0 Millfield 46, Alon Tal 19 St Benedict's 19; London Oratory 0 Millfield 35; Alon Tal 0 Millfield 43, London Oratory 33 St Benedict's 5

GROUP I: Queen Elizabeth, Barnet 39 Adams GS 7, King Edward's, Bath 26 Birchgrove GS 19, Queen Elizabeth, Barnet 28 King Edward's 5, Adams GS 12 Birchgrove GS 48; Queen Elizabeth, Barnet 7 Birchgrove GS 28; Adams GS 7 King Edwards's 40

GROUP J: Bryanston 36 Ibstock Place 0; Cylanfria 7 Durham 19; Bryanston 28 Cylanfria 7; Ibstock Place 0 Durham 19; Bryanston 29 Durham 12; Ibstock Place 17 Cylanfria 7

KNOCKOUT STAGE: Group winners' play-offs: Habardashers' Aske's, Elstree 31 Arnold 5, Eton 12 Oratory 19

QUARTER-FINAL DRAW: Habardashers' v Oratory; Llanhari v Dwr-y-Felin, RGS High Wycombe v Millfield, Birchgrove v Bryanston

JUNIOR TOURNAMENT

QUARTER-FINALS. Donhead 19 London Oratory 14, St Olave's, Kent 31 Broxbourne 12, Okehla 22 Bedford Modern 7; Castleford 7 Manchester GS 27

SEMI-FINALS: Donhead 24 St Olave's, Kent 12, Okehla 7 Manchester GS 33

FINAL: Donhead 21 Manchester GS 5

PREPARATORY SCHOOLS TOURNAMENT

QUARTER-FINALS: Mount House 0 Caldicott 26, Hadegrave 10 Bromsgrove 17, St Mary's Hall 0 Wolborough Hill 12, Newlands 0 The Dragon 22

SEMI-FINALS Caldicott 12 Bromsgrove 10, Wolborough Hill 22 The Dragon 12

FINAL: Caldicott 19 Wolborough Hill 12.



RACING: BIN SUROOR AND CECIL PREPARE FOR ANOTHER EPIC DUEL FOR FLAT TRAINERS' TITLE

Curtain rises with blind leading the blind

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

NOTHING better illustrates the eccentricity of British racing than the fare on the breakfast plate this morning. After digesting the spate of withdrawals from the Grand National, to be run over 4½ miles and 30 fences, punters will turn their attention to the Brocklesby Stakes, a sprint over five-eighths of a mile. In between jump racing's twin peaks, Flat racing on turf gets under way at Doncaster.

Only 54 horses have been left in the Grand National at the second forfeit stage yesterday, raising fears that the race will again fall short of a 40-runner maximum field. Notable withdrawals include Dublin Flyer, Superior Finish, Sir Peter Lely, Into The Red, Coome Hill and Fantus.

Indeed, the Brocklesby is the ultimate absurdity as an opening-day highlight. Those first, hesitant steps into the darkness of a new season are compounded by an event in which none of the 15 runners has previously seen a racecourse. The blind are leading the blind and bookmakers, fattened on the proceeds of Cheltenham, are licking their lips in anticipation.



ED BYRNE

Yeast, seen winning the Victoria Cup at Ascot last season, is fancied to make a winning reappearance at Doncaster

The best to be said of it is that small players can have their day before the heavyweights assemble next month. In the absence of an outstanding horse from another stable, 1997 promises another titanic joust between Saeed bin Suroor and Henry Cecil. Last year, they dominated to such an extent that John Gosden, who finished third in the rankings, trailed the pair by almost £1 million.

Both protagonists commence with an abundance of talent. So laden is Cecil with high quality fillies that he subscribed a quartet to the 2,000 Guineas. However, bin Suroor's Godolphin team houses 17 candidates for the spring classics. And word emanating from Dubai has it that Shamikh is moving with the ease of a magic carpet.

Godolphin's season will be every bit as challenging as its first foray to these shores. Contrary to custom, Sheikh Mohammed, its patron, has not looted his British trainers of their best juveniles. Godolphin's first batch of two-year-olds had a satisfactory campaign; when the sheikh did strengthen his hand, he did by purchasing privately.

Thus the munitions of Gosden, Michael Stoute and David Loder have survived intact — although it remains to be seen whether Sheikh Hamdan's small but select string, which wintered in Dubai, ends up in Godolphin's clutches. Stoute and Loder are not short of classic material but it is Gosden who stands to gain most from Godolphin's change of emphasis.

Gosden's string, systematically ransacked in previous winters, looks well balanced and is reportedly forward enough to make an early show. It is hoped that it will not be one-way traffic. The likes of Royal Crusade (William Haggas), Crimson Tide (John Hills), Royal Amaretto (Brian Meehan), Baked Alaska (Alec Stewart) and Poteen and Mandilak (Luca Cumani) have shown great potential in their forays to date.

Among jockeys, one wonders what Frankie Dettori will conjure after his Ascot seven-timer. If his enthusiasm continues to infect his mounts, anything is possible. Willie Carson has retired, and with Kieren Fallon now riding for Cecil, Pat Eddery stands at the crossroads of a glittering career. It will require an immense effort from Eddery's camp to keep him at the top.

Yeast can make fine start to new campaign

DONCASTER
CHANNEL 4

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

2.05: A tricky opener for television punters with several unexposed runners stepping up in trip, some making a seasonal reappearance while others are fit from the all-weather. *Sword Arm*, who beat an all-aged field of maidens over an extended mile at Wolverhampton recently, should appreciate this stiffer test of stamina and can oblige for Roger Charlton, who won this race last year with Jackson Hill. Miracle Kid, representing the formidable John Gosden-Frankie Dettori team, and Pennywell are lightly raced winners open to considerable improvement, while Lady Godiva is arguably the form choice judged on some of last term's efforts.

2.35: There are as many tips as runners in the first two-year-old race of the new Turf season and the market is often the best guide. Mick Channon normally has his juveniles tuned up and Richard Quinn is booked for Stately Princess. The Robellino filly has been working nicely at home and should be sharp enough to win first time out, according to her trainer. Bill Turner won this race last year and Mister Bankes is another who has been showing up well at home. The colt is by Risk Me, who often produces decent early two-year-olds.

3.10: Yeast is ideally suited by a straight, galloping mile and William Haggas's front-runner should have conditions to suit in this small field, drawn near the stands' rail. Amrak Ajeeb put up his best performance when winning a decent Ascot handicap last September and would go close if repeating that effort. However, the interesting runner is Canyon Creek, who justified short-priced favouritism on his belated debut last year. The well-bred Mr Prospector colt is highly regarded and could make up into a smart four-year-old.

3.40: Brutal Fantasy has shown markedly improved form on the all-weather this winter and if he can reproduce his winning efforts at Southwell and Wolverhampton, Les Eyre's runner will go close. Bishops Court impressed in both his races last term, winning easily at Hamilton on his second start, and he should win his share of races this season. Ellens Lad, who signed off last year by winning a Newmarket nursery, still looks reasonably treated and is marginally preferred.

RICHARD EVANS

DONCASTER

THUNDERER

1.30 Galapino
2.05 MIRACLE KID (nap)
2.35 Stately Princess
3.10 Canyon Creek
3.40 Ellens Lad
4.10 Mels Baby
4.40 Fly To The Stars

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

1.30 RACING CHANNEL APPRENTICE HANDICAP
(£2,878: 1m 4f) (24 runners)

101	(2)	30503-1	OPERA BUFF 64 (D,F,S,5) (B Tregoning) Miss G Kelloway 8-9-10	A Whelan	98
102	(12)	626200-	MIDYAN BLUE 131 (S) (K Palmer) J Eustace 7-9-10	S Houghton (7)	93
103	(7)	815232/	SLASHER JACK 615 (D,F,S) (V Greaves) D Nicholls 6-9-10	Iona Wands (5)	–
104	(1)	06114-4	FAIRY KNIGHT 18 (D,F,S) (P & S Lever) R Hannon 5-9-8	G Gallagher (7)	90
105	(13)	530253-	PAY HOMAGE 175 (C,F,S) (Miss A Hill) I Balding 9-9-7	R Fowler (7)	96
106	(11)	823522-	ALMUHTARAM 143 (F,S) (A Al-Midad) B Lewis 5-9-5	J Bramhill (5)	92
107	(24)	022310-	URGENT SWIFT 185 (F) (A Morton) A Jarvis 4-9-5	C Carver (7)	90
108	(18)	522600-	CORS INA FARRAIRE 165 (D,F) (T Finch) Miss L Perratt 4-9-5	K Sked (5)	94
109	(9)	41405/	TONNERRE 571J (S) (I Gosa) B Mckiahon 5-9-2	S Righton (7)	–
110	(10)	24F195-	ROSEY NATIVE 147 (F,S) (J Pearce) J Pearce 4-9-2	Lisa Moncrieff (7)	86
111	(3)	23510-1	AMADOUR 23 (D,S) (D Crowson) P Mitchell 4-9-0	A McCarthy (7)	90
112	(19)	45560-0	DECISION MAKER 19 (B) (Mrs B Whitehorn) K Burke 4-9-0	D Griffiths (5)	95
113	(18)	010000-	CHABROL 25J (F) (T Connors) T Clement 4-8-11	R Havlin	95
114	(16)	430-211	RAFFLES ROOSTER 19J (D,G) (M Loatham) A Newcombe 5-8-10	Jo Hannan (5)	98
115	(23)	3133B0-	GENERAL GLOW 135 (D,F) (J Wale) P Evans 4-8-9	P McCabe	91
116	(22)	4-05302	DANCING CAVALIER 17 (S) (Thos Fry) R Hollinshead 4-8-7	F Lynch	97
117	(6)	251510-	HE'S GOT WINGS 164 (D,F) (B Hellaway) Mrs J Ramsden 4-8-7	Martin Dwyer	90
118	(14)	020/	RESERVATION ROCK 6J (S Piper) T Hind 6-8-5	Samantha McGinn (7)	–
119	(17)	013262	FABOLOUS MITOTO 7 (D,F,G) (N Pike) M Saunders 7-8-5	R Fincch (5)	88
120	(20)	3-30128	PERSISION 42 (F,S,5) (Mrs J Rowledge) J Pearce 5-8-5	C Teague	88
121	(5)	1/60-415	KALAMATA 20 (D,BF,S) (B Parr) J Glover 5-8-3	T E Duncan (3)	93
122	(21)	604-212	GALAPINO 58 (D,BF,S) (N Dearman) Miss G Kelloway 4-7-11	R Mullen (5)	97
123	(8)	024050-	PARROT'S HILL 28J (M Tompkins Elite) M Tompkins 4-7-10	M Henry	94
124	(4)	3130222	KILNAMARTYRA GIRL 6 (D,F,S) (P Cronin) J Parkes 7-7-10	J Bramhill (5)	92

BETTING: 6-1 Opera Buff, 7-1 Midyan Blue, 8-1 He's Got Wings, Almuhtaram, 10-1 Raffles Rooster, 16-1 others.

1996: HAYA YA KEFAAH 4-7-10 R Fincch (33-1) N Babbage 21 ran

FORM FOCUS

OPERA BUFF beat Star Rage 1l in handicap at Wolverhampton (1m 4f, AW). ALMUHTARAM short-head 2nd to Mandari in handicap at Lingfield (1m 4f, AW). URGENT SWIFT beat Elizabeth head in handicap at Redcar (1m 2f, firm) on penultimate start. AMADOUR beat Soojama 1¼l in 5-runner apprentice handicap at Lingfield (1m 4f, AW). RAFFLES ROOSTER beat Midlun 1¼l in 13-runner handicap at Southwell (1m 3f, AW).
Selection: ALMUHTARAM

2.05 BACK A WINNER BY TRAIN HANDICAP C4
(3-Y-O: £3,883: 1m 2f 60yd) (16 runners)

201	(5)	610210-	LOVE HAS NO PRIDE 153 (F,G) (Miss L Rags) R Hannon 9-7	Dane O'Neill	89
202	(12)	42-21	SELBERRY 57 (G) (Middleham Park) P Haslam 9-4	J Fortune	88
203	(7)	3223-14	SUPERBELLE 33 (D,G) (N Yong) M Jarvis 9-1	Emma O'Gorman	88
204	(13)	442-1	SWORD ARM 15 (G) (A Oppenheimer) R Charlton 8-13	T Sprake	93
205	(8)	005-	BALMERY 145 (R Brehaut) M Channon 8-13	Paul Eddery	85
206	(6)	05-22	MOGUL 40 (BF) (Silver and Blue Club) N Graham 8-11	A McGlone	86
207	(2)	07-	MIRACLE KID 126 (G) (L Lo) J Gosden 8-10	L Dettori	90
208	(4)	022214-	LADY GODIVA 170 (G) (Keen Racing) M Polglase 8-6	T G McLaughlin	87
209	(10)	040-153	HEAD GARDENER 19 (G) (Gardening Partners) N Littmoden 8-6	A Daly (5)	92
210	(1)	432544	TIME CAN TELL 24 (G) (D Croft) C Murray 8-4	J Stack	92
211	(9)	21	PENNYWELL 22 (G) (Lady Rothschild) R Johnson Houghton 8-2	S Sanders	95
212	(14)	650-	NATIVE PRINCESS 153 (S Crown) B Hills 8-1	G Carter	89
213	(15)	213006-	THE DEEJAY 174 (F) (F Sainsbury) Mrs M Jones 8-1	J F Egan	88
214	(11)	04055-	MADISON WELCOME 180 (Mrs A Rees) Mrs J Ramsden 7-13	R Mullen (5)	89
215	(3)	512121	AS-IS 21 (G,6) (R Robinson) M Johnston 7-10	N Adams	98
216	(15)	000-	WATERCOLOUR 260 (B) (A Tombs) N Babbage 7-10	R Fincch (7)	–

BETTING: 3-1 Miracle Kid, 7-2 Sword Arm, 6-1 Selberry, Pennywell, As-Is, 9-1 Love Has No Pride, 12-1 others.

1996: JACKSON HILL 9-4 Pat Eddery (6-4 fav) R Charlton 18 ran

FORM FOCUS

SELBERRY beat Mitrey 1¼l in 8-runner handicap at Wolverhampton (1m 100yd, AW) with TIME CAN TELL (7lb better off) 2½l and short-head 4th. SWORD ARM beat Little Acorn easily by 1l in 9-runner maiden at Wolverhampton (1m 100yd, AW). MIRACLE KID beat Protocol neck in 9-runner maiden at Lingfield (1m 2f, AW). PENNYWELL beat Jolly Jackson ½l in 10-runner maiden at Wolverhampton (1m 100yd, AW). AS-IS beat State of Gold 2l in 6-runner apprentice claimer at Lingfield (1m 4f, AW).
Selection: SELBERRY

2.35 TOTE BENVENUTO BROCKLESBY CONDITIONS STAKES C4
(2-Y-O: £4,924: 5f) (15 runners)

301	(10)		BLUERIDGE DANCER (A Conlon) B Meehan 8-11 — M Tebbutt
302	(9)		FAR-SO-LA (Rest Hill Partners) T Jones 8-11 — R Perham
303	(7)		FIVE OF SPADES (B Cassidy) D Nicholls 8-11 — Alex Greaves
304	(4)		MIOUELON (P Savill) R Hollinshead 8-11 — K Darley
305	(1)		MISTER BANKES (T Lightbowne) W G M Turner 8-11 — T Sprake
306	(2)		PRINCE NICHOLAS (Audeyn Stud) K Hogg 8-11 — D McKeown
307	(6)		SOMOSIERRA (Mrs C Dawkins) J Berry 8-11 — T E Duncan (5)
308	(5)		SUGGEST (Belcool Ltd) Miss S Kelloway 8-11 — D Holland
309	(11)		THE OTHER RISK (Low Fryers) D Nolan 8-11 — G Duffield
310	(14)		WREKIN PILOT (Wrekin Team) R Hannon 8-11 — Pat Eddery
311	(13)		YORKIES BOY (Mrs M Beddis) B Mckiahon 8-11 — L Newton
312	(12)		DAYS OF GRACE (S Bayless) M Meade 8-6 — D Sweeney (5)
313	(9)		RILEY BRIGS (Drakemyre Racing) W Kemp 8-6 — J Quinn
314	(3)		OUT LIKE MAGIC (Mrs E Dawson) P Evans 8-6 — J F Egan
315	(15)		STATELY PRINCESS (S Crown) M Channon 8-6 — T Quinn

BETTING: 7-2 Suggest, 4-1 Wrekin Pilot, 9-2 Somosierra, 5-1 Stately Princess, 6-1 Blueridge Dancer, 10-1 Master Bankes, Yorkies Boy, 16-1 others.

1996: INDIAN SPARK 8-11 T Sprake (100-30) W G M Turner 7 ran

3.10 SPORTING LIFE DONCASTER MILE C4
(Listed race: £11,454: 1m) (6 runners)

401	(5)	010010-	YEAST 166 (D,F,S) (B Haggas) W Haggas 5-8-1	R Cochrane	94
402	(1)	501016-	AMRAK AJEEB 141 (D,F,6,S) (A Mecca) B Hanbury 5-8-12	M Rimmer	98
403	(6)	250000-	BAND ON THE RUN 152 (CD,F,S,S) (D Allen) B Mckiahon 10-8-12	T Quinn	81
404	(2)	1-	CANYON CREEK 164 (D,G) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 4-8-12	L Dettori	74
405	(3)	3/1446-	LONELY LEADER 180 (F) (S Sutsil) R Hannon 4-8-12	Pat Eddery	84
406	(4)	234/41-6	RAHEEN 71 (B,D,BF,G) (B Kiekuny) W G M Turner 4-8-12	T Sprake	73

BETTING: 7-4 Yeast, 5-2 Canyon Creek, Amrak Ajeeb, 7-1 Lonely Leader, 12-1 Band On The Run, 25-1 Raheen.

1996: FIRST ISLAND 4-8-12 M Hills (9-2) G Wragg 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

YEAST beat Restructure 1¼l in 9-runner listed race at Newmarket (1m, good to firm) penultimate start. AMRAK AJEEB 6l 6th of 8 to Arsen in group 1a Prix Andre Baboin Grand Prix des Provinces at Maisons-Laffitte Parc-Borely (1m 2f, good to form). Previously beat Hal's Pal 1¼l in 25-runner handicap at Ascot (1m, good). CANYON CREEK beat Yukon Hope 3l in 14-runner maiden at Pontefract (1m, good). LONELY LEADER 1½l 4th of 8 to Polar Prince in conditions race at Goodwood (7f, good). RAHEEN beat Holders Hill 3l in 11-runner maiden at Wolverhampton (1m 100yd, AW) penultimate start.
Selection: YEAST (nap)

3.40 MITSUBISHI DIAMOND VISION HANDICAP C4
(3-Y-O: £4,464: 5f) (13 runners)

501	(2)	351503-	DIVIDE AND RULE 216 (D,F) (M Johnson) R Hollinshead 9-7	D Griffiths (3)	83
502	(1)	622210-	SWINO 208 (D,F) (Swinerton Transport) P Evans 9-7	J F Egan	83
503	(13)	145366-	WEET EES GIRL 202 (D,G) (E Weetman, Ltd) P Evans 9-4	K Fallon	85
504	(10)	003151-	ELLENS LAD 139 (D,F,G) (Mrs C Harrington) R Hannon 9-4	Pat Eddery	90
505	(12)	31-	BISHOPS COURT 172 (D,G) (D Brotherton) Mrs J Ramsden 9-4	J Fortune	90
506	(7)	1320-	GUNNERS GLORY 197 (D,F) (T Painting) B Meehan 9-3	L Dettori	89
507	(8)	421501-	BALLYMOTE 178 (D,F) (M Bernstein) J Berry 9-1	K Darley	80
508	(6)	434-	JEDI KNIGHT 220 (K Hodgson) M W Easterby 8-13	Dale Gibson	90
509	(11)	302-322	CASTLE ASHBY JACK 26 (B) (Sir Forbonys) P Howling 8-11	Paul Eddery	85
510	(9)	300-151	BRUTAL FANTASY 36 (D,G,S) (Diamond Racing) J Eyre 8-10	R Lappin	98
511	(3)	3-25121	EAGER TO PLEASE 16 (B,D,F,G) Miss S Kelloway 8-8	D Holland	92
512	(4)	00-2443	LUNAR MUSIC 3 (D,F) (P Dixon) M Meade 8-4	D Sweeney (5)	85
513	(5)	56398-	GOLD EDGE 150 (M Channon) M Channon 7-10	A Eddery (7)	81

BETTING: 9-4 Bishops Court, 5-1 Ellens Lad, 6-1 Eager To Please, 7-1 Ballymote, 8-1 Gunners Glory, 10-1 Divide And Rule, 12-1 others.

1996: LITTLE NOGGINS 8-5 J Stack (15-1) C Dwyer 18 ran

FORM FOCUS

DIVIDE AND RULE 1¼l 3rd of 9 to Bold Almoun in a nursery at Haydock (5f, good to firm) with LUNAR MUSIC (5lb better off) 3¼l 5th. ELLENS LAD beat Kilcullen Lad 1½l in 8-runner nursery at Newmarket (5f, good). BISHOPS COURT beat Hurgill Lady 1½l in 8-runner maiden auction at Hamilton (5f, good). GUNNERS GLORY neck 2nd of 8 to Downy in a claimer at Lingfield (6f, good to soft) penultimate start. BALLYMOTE beat Donna's Dance 1½l in a 4-runner nursery at Musselburgh (5f, good to firm).
JEDI KNIGHT 4¼l 4th of 12 to Balladoole Bagan in maiden auction at Thirsk (5f, good). BRUTAL FANTASY beat Mangus 1½l in a 6-runner handicap at Wolverhampton (5f, AW). EAGER TO PLEASE beat Blues Magic 1¼l in an 8-runner claimer at Lingfield (5f, AW).
Selection: BRUTAL FANTASY

Blinkered first time

DONCASTER: 2.05 Watercolour PLUMPTON: 5.00 Mr Lovely WINCANTON: 3.15 Fools Errand

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,6,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 . B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell, P — pulled up, U — unseated rider, B — brought down, S — slipped up, R — refused, D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers, V — visor, H — hood, E — Eyeshield, C — course winner, D — distance winner, CD — course and distance winner, BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard, G — good, S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

4.10 FAUCETS FOR MIRA / RADA DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL SHOWER EQUIPMENT LADIES HANDICAP
(£2,402: 1m 2f 60yd) (20 runners)

601	(15)	342060-	FOREST ROBIN 135 (P Leonard) Mrs J Recardon 4-11-7	E Ramsden (5)	90
602	(1)	40300-	TAKE NOTICE 163 (J Slattery) R Mckellar 4-11-4	C Williams (5)	91
603	(10)	518000-	MYBOTYE 131 (F,B) (A Mooney) R Basiman 4-11-4	R Basiman (5)	86
604	(3)	404231-	BREAK THE RULES 12J (CD,F,S,S) (A Lomas) M Pipe 5-11-2	A Perrett	97
605	(19)	12210-1	ANGEL FACE 5 (D,G) (Mrs E Williams) P Evans 4-11-1 (5ex)	C Ford (5)	91
606	(20)	00065-4	GOLD BLADE 15 (D,F,S) (A Old) J Pearce 8-10-12	L Pearce	90
607	(7)	142040-	RISING DOUGH 16J (D,F) (B Pennick) B L Moore 5-10-11	J Moore	88
608	(6)	2240-00	LOVEYOUMILLIONS 45 (F,S) (Elite Racing) N Tinkler 5-10-11	J Allison	89
609	(13)	4112-40	MANFUL 48 (S,CD,F,G,S) (C Barker-Lomax) Miss L Perratt 5-10-11	S Bradley	90
610	(5)	0/0003-	DESERT FIGHTER 19J (D,F,6S) (A Frame) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-11	P Jones	85
611	(2)	51116-4	MELS BABY 24 (C,BF,F,6,S) (J Roberts) J Eyre 4-10-9	Diana Jones	93
612	(14)	2/64-	NIRVANA PRINCE 305J (D Portman) B Preece 8-10-8	L Bassett (5)	88
613	(6)	3/000-14	TAWAFER 42 (D,6) (T Shepherd) S Dow 4-10-8	M Cowdrey	95
614	(9)	4/26500-	FOURDANSID 195 (Foursquare) P Harris 4-10-8	A Elsey	89
615	(12)	213-403	FATHER DAN 37 (D,F,S) (Father Dan Partners) Miss G Kelloway 8-9-13	L Kerr (5)	98
616	(16)	43000-0	OPEN AFFAIR 45 (A Fountain) H Alkoy 4-9-11	I Fossitch (5)	90
617	(18)	6546-00	CORBA 19 (Mrs B Curley) B Curley 4-9-9	A Bradenick (5)	80
618	(17)	0/34680-	FLASH IN THE PAN 6J (Mrs V Goodman) J Moore 4-9-8	S Moore (5)	80
619	(4)	000-412	ROUSSI 48 (G) (A Blackwood) D Nicholls 5-8-7	R Clark	89
620	(11)	120050-	SQUARED AWAY 163 (B,F) (Mrs E Lale) J Payne 5-8-4	C Lale (5)	91

BETTING: 5-1 Break The Rules, 6-1 Angel Face, 13-2 Desert Fighter, 8-1 Rouss, 10-1 Father Dan, 11-1 Gold Blade, 12-1 others.

1996: MANFUL 4-9-9 A Elsey (20-1) C Elsey 27 ran

FORM FOCUS

BREAK THE RULES beat Bernard Seven 5l in claimer over course and distance (good). ANGEL FACE beat Chadleigh Lane 1¼l in 13-runner handicap at Wolverhampton (1m 1f 79yd, AW). MANFUL best effort 3¼l 2nd of 12 to Mr Specialist in handicap at Wolverhampton (1m 4f, AW). DESERT FIGHTER two heads 3rd of 10 to Urgent Swift in handicap at Redcar (1m 2f, firm). MELS BABY 3½l 4th of 10 to Ring The Chief in amateurs handicap at Southwell (7f, AW). FATHER DAN 2¼l 3rd of 8 to Sweet Wittashman in limited stakes at Lingfield (1m, AW). ROUSSI ¾l 2nd of 11 to Sea Spouse in handicap at Southwell (1m, AW).
Selection: MELS BABY

4.40 MELTON WOOD MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,850: 1m) (8 runners)

1	(4)	0-	BURNING TRUTH 169 (K Abdulla) R Charlton 9-0	T Sprake	80
2	(2)	32-	FLY TO THE STARS 135 (P Savill) M Jobston 9-0	J Weaver	97
3	(3)	604-	GET THE POINT 139 (J Bigg) R Hollinshead 9-0	L Dettori	89
4	(5)		KHAYAL (Hn Al Maktoum) B Hills 9-0	J D Smith (5)	–
5	(6)	42-	RIVER'S SOURCE 156 (A Abdulla) B Hills 9-0	M Hills	95
6	(7)	500-	APRIL JACKSON 257 (R Fearnall) P Dalton 8-9	J Bramhill (5)	–
7	(1)	6-	ARBOREAL 130 (M Saggs) N Littmoden 8-9	K Fallon	91
8	(8)	54-	TOI TOI 132 (N Cronin) D Arbuthnot 8-9	S Wiltshireth	94

BETTING: 9-4 River's Source, 11-4 Fly To The Stars, 7-2 Khayal, 5-1 Get The Point, 8-1 Burning Truth, Toi Toi.

1996: INSIYABI 9-0 W Carson (5-1) J Dunlop 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

BURNING TRUTH 12l 10th of 19 to Entice in maiden at Salisbury (7f, good to soft). FLY TO THE STARS 1l 2nd of 16 to Tayseer in maiden at Redcar (7f, good to firm). GET THE POINT 4¼l last of 4 to River Usk in conditions race at Newmarket (1m, good). RIVER'S SOURCE 2l 3rd of 10 to Akmade in maiden at Leicester (7f, good to firm). ARBOREAL 5l 6th of 17 to Fable in conditions race at Fontainebleau (1m, soft). TOI TOI 5¼l 4th of 20 to Handsome Midge in maiden here (7f, soft).
Selection: FLY TO THE STARS

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%
N Babbage	3	9	33.3
Miss G Kelloway	5	21	23.8
J Gosden	27	129	21.7
R Charlton	6	32	18.8
B Hills	25	139	18.0
M Channon	12	79	15.2

JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
D Holland	9	45	20.0
L Dettori	33	183	18.0
M Hills	26	150	17.3
S Sanders	6	38	15.8
Pat Eddery	22	149	14.8
T Sprake	4	27	14.8

PLUMPTON

THUNDERER

2.25 Lord Mills. 2.55 Regal Aura. 3.25 Tomal. 4.00 Flight Lieutenant. 4.30 Black Church. 5.00 Always Greener.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

2.25 PEASE POTTAGE NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,826: 2m 4f) (12 runners)

1	0PUF	BENJI 10 T Casey 6-11-2	J A McCarthy	
2	-05P	CLOCK WATCHERS 36 J Bridger 9-11-2	D Morris	
3	32	EAU DE COLOGNE 36 Mrs L Richards 5-11-2	M Richards	
4	PP	KING'S AFFAIR 17 P Hedges 7-11-2	M Clinton (7)	
5	006P	KYBO'S REVENGE 20 R Rowe 6-11-2	D O'Sullivan	
6	35-3	LORD MILLS 10 N Chance 6-11-2	T J Murphy	
7	F	NEARLY ALL RIGHT 13 S Earle 8-11-2	S Curran	
8	3000	PROTOTYPE 14 (F) G Johnson Houghton 6-11-2	D Gallagher	
9	330	KNOT TRUE 10 John Berry 7-10-11	A McCabe	
10	03P2	MAYLIN MAGIC 38 T Casey 6-10-11	D Bridgwater	
11		PHILISTATE J Fitch-Heyes 8-10-11	P Henley (3)	
12	0P	JAMES FIRST 55 R Ingram 4-10-7	B Dove (7)	

6-4 Lord Mills, 5-2 Maylin Magic, 3-1 Eau De Cologne, 10-1 others

2.55 CUCKFIELD HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,887: 2m 5f) (8)

1	133-	SUFFOLK ROAD 397 (F,6,S) R Rowe 10-11-12	D O'Sullivan	
2	3233	SIMPLY 14 (F,6,S) T McGovern 8-11-9	D Bridgwater	
3	6P2U	JOVIAL MAN 19 (F,S) R O'Sullivan 8-11-5	J Osborne	
4	40P1	PARLIAMENTARIAN 13 (B,G) T Casey 8-10-6	J A McCarthy	
5	41UP	OXFORD QUILL 29 (D,G) R Curtis 10-10-1	D Morris	
6	P6-P	YOUNG ALFIE 52 (B,F,S) J Pewett 12-10-1	P Henley (3)	
7	P-61	REGAL AURA 10 (CD,B,S) D O'Brien 7-10-0 (6ex)	W Marston	
8	0P04	SALCOMBE HARBOUR 16 (S,S) P Pritchard 13-10-0	P Pritchard	

5-2 Jovial Man, 7-2 Regal Aura, 4-1 Parliamentarian, 5-1 Suffolk Road, 6-1 others.

3.25 MARCH SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,111: 2m 1f) (10)

1	FP36	BATTLESHIP BRUCE 10 T Casey 5-11-10	S Ryan (5)	
2	6002	GENERAL SHIRLEY 6 (F) P Hedges 5-11-4	M Clinton (7)	
3	0U0F	TOMAL 30F R Ingram 5-10-13	D Gallagher	
4	/00	VANBOROUGH LAD 14 M Bolton 8-10-11	J Osborne (3)	
5	-000	NISHAMAN 48 T Hind 6-10-10	P McLoughlin	
6	P044	ZADOK 10 (B) J Fitch-Heyes 5-10-8	P Henley (3)	
7	6F-P	HIGH BURNSHOT 9 (F) Mrs L Jewell 10-10-2	D Leahy	
8	3P00	SCALP 'EM 17 P Pritchard 9-10-0	P Pritchard	
9	P-0P	TIGANA 6 Mrs L Jewell 5-10-0	S Curran	
10	-PP5	ANIF 6 J Joseph 6-10-0	D Skyrme	

2-1 General Shirley, 3-1 Battleship Bruce, 7-2 Zadok, 4-1 Tomal, 14-1 Vanbrough Lad, 20-1 Tigana, Scalp, em, 25-1 others

4.00 WEATHERBYS DATA SERVICES NOVICES CHASE (£2,906: 2m) (5)

1	2621	FLIGHT LIEUTENANT 19 (D,F,6,S) T Casey 8-12-0	D Bridgwater	
2	6/6	FRUIT TOWN 100 P Butler 8-11-2	T J Murphy	
3	-PP3	MHEANMETOO 17 D Williams 6-11-2	Mr S Durack (7)	
4	2P3U	ROBINS PRIDE 17 (BF,6,S) C Popham 7-11-2	Mr R Thornton (5)	
5	/05	TIN PAN ALLEY 31 D Gascoigne 8-11-2	P Henley (3)	

4-11 Flight Lieutenant, 4-1 Robins Pride, 12-1 Mheanmetoo, 16-1 Tin Pan Alley, 20-1 Fruit Town.

4.30 HAILSHAM HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,938: 3m 1l 110yd) (4)

1	31P4	BLACK CHURCH 14 (C,F,S) R Rowe 11-11-12	D O'Sullivan	
2	P6PP	PINOCCIO 38 (F) D O'Brien 10-10-1	W Marston	
3	5P5P	JOKER JACK 6 (F,S) R Dean 12-10-0	D Leahy	
4	P/F	SHARROW BAY 34 A Hobbs 10-10-6	R Greene	

2-9 Black Church, 6-1 Joker Jack, 8-1 Sharrow Bay, 14-1 Pinoccio

5.00 LEWES AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,193: 2m 4f) (8)

1	5423	KELLY MAC 10 (S) D O Brien 7-11-10	Mr R Thornton (5)	
2	1-0P	GONE FOR LUNCH 6 (F) J Whyte 6-11-6	Mr M Bingell (7)	
3	5132	ALWAYS GREENER 10 (D,G) J Mullins 6-11-3	Mr P O'Keeffe (7)	
4	5300	MAJORAH 41 R Curtis 6-11-1	Mr M Appleby (7)	
5	8U56	KING'S GOLD 20 Mrs L Richards 7-10-8	Miss S Victory (7)	
6	FP0U	MR LOVELY 13 (B) J Neville 6-10-2	Mr O McPhail (7)	
7	60-6	PRINCE OF SPADES 242 A Hobbs 5-10-1	Mr G Sheridan (7)	
8	6F0-	BAYLORD PRINCE 316 (C,F,S) Mrs J Ewer 9-10-0	Mr J Goldsmith (7)	

7-4 Kelly Mac, 5-2 Always Greener, 7-1 King's Gold, 8-1 Gone For Lunch, Prince Of Spades, 10-1 Majorah, 12-1 others

2.45 CORTON DENHAM NOVICES CHASE
(£3,246: 2m 5f) (6)

1	214U	DREAM RIDE 19 (F,G,S) D Nicholson 7-11-10	R Johnson	
2	45UP	GIVUS A CALL 38 (S) J Gifford 7-11-3	L Aspell (3)	
3	4-F2	MALWOOD CASTLE 13 (G) R Alner 7-11-3	A Thornton	
4	00BP	POCAIRE GAOITHE 37 C Popham 7-11-3	T Dascombe (3)	
5	UU-5	RAUNCHECK 14 M Campion 5-11-3

FOOTBALL: NEWCASTLE CHAIRMAN DISMAYED BY TEAM'S COLLAPSE IN UEFA CUP QUARTER-FINAL

Hall must rebuild crumbling castle

BY DAVID MADDOCK

HAVING started out in his business life as an architect, Sir John Hall has always enjoyed an instinct for creation. His Metro Centre in the North East is the ultimate monument to the Thatcherite culture of the Eighties, and Newcastle United's rebirth was another of his grand designs.

Now, however, as all architects are forced to do, he must turn his mind to the more mundane task of rebuilding. The structure he so impressively constructed, the club he took from drawing-board to shining, brilliant reality, is now beginning to crumble.

His builder, Kevin Keegan, has gone, and the team he left behind is showing signs of distress. Newcastle were woeful in Monaco, collapsing spectacularly in the second half after conceding a goal just before the break.

Newcastle were simply outclassed during the second period of their Uefa Cup quarter-final second leg, and after spending £60 million, Sir John has every right to be depressed at such a limp display. Only now can he appreciate the size of the task that faces Kenny Dalglish, the new manager, if he is to rebuild the club and capture the honours that such spending demands.

The chairman's face at Newcastle airport yesterday showed that he does not underestimate the job ahead, as did his blunt one-word comment: "Disgraceful."

Later yesterday, after calmer reflection, he acknowledged that Dalglish will have to create his own team quickly, using his own raw materials, and not those left behind by Keegan, whose team, Sir John effectively conceded, will not win anything. "In a sense, this is the end of the Keegan era, and that's probably it for the team assembled by Keegan," he said.

"I've gone through some ups and downs before this. On Tuesday, I was very disappointed, especially with our second-half performance, because we were outclassed. One lesson that must be learnt amid all the emotion surrounding our display is that, when you reach this stage of the competition, you are meeting the best teams, and, if you don't have your best team, your limitations will be exposed. But I also think that English football will have to look at its coaching methods. Where are all our coaches? Monaco were quicker, fitter and had better skills."

After spending such a vast amount, Sir John is entitled to ask why he has not had a better return from his investment, particularly when Keegan made such a promising start. The former manager was outstanding in turning the club around but Tuesday's evidence suggests that Newcastle lack certain fundamental qualities to make the final step on the long road towards honours.

Not only were Keegan's eccentricities in defence still readily visible under Dalglish — unsurprising given that they are the same players — but so was the shallowness of the squad. There are injuries, but Newcastle are missing only two automatic choices: Shearer and Ferdinand. Two injuries then, and a painful lack of depth is exposed.

Keegan did not create a structure beyond the first team to support the exciting players he purchased. He also ignored the obvious need in a balanced team for players who defend naturally. At Newcastle, they are almost all attackers by nature. Even defenders like Watson, Albert and Elliott.

When there are injuries, because the the reserve and A teams have been scrapped, the cupboard is empty when Dalglish goes in search of replacements. Dalglish has already reversed that situation but the new manager's emphasis on the development of youth will take time to pay dividends.

Meanwhile, he will be given funds by Sir John, and encouraged to spend quickly in pursuit of the missing quality. "Kenny Dalglish is in total command of team selection, and the manager of Newcastle United has always been backed financially by this board," Sir John said.

"I know he's looking at players closely, and we must give him time. I am very impressed by Kenny Dalglish as a manager. This is just a temporary setback. We came from nowhere in five years, and this is part of a learning curve. Our pride is hurt more than anything, because of the manner of defeat, but we will get it right."



Benarbia, right, and Anderson celebrate Monaco's third goal in the embarrassing 3-0 defeat of Newcastle

Hoddle set to keep faith with criticised Le Tissier

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THERE will be changes aplenty when Glenn Hoddle names his squad for the England international against Mexico at Wembley next week, but the change demanded by many in the wake of the World Cup defeat by Italy last month will not be forthcoming. Many may have blamed Matthew Le Tissier for the 1-0 home defeat that makes qualification from group two a hugely difficult task, but Hoddle, the England coach, does not and the Southampton man's place is safe.

Hoddle is adamant that Le Tissier was unfairly criticised for his part in England's first ever home defeat in a World Cup match, saying it was Le Tissier who had England's best two chances, either side of Gianfranco Zola's winner. Even though the Channel Islander was withdrawn after an hour against Italy and despite the fact that his brother, Karl, was involved in the disclosure of Le Tissier's place and role in the team before the game, he will remain in the England party.

Others will not be so lucky. Among those forced out of contention by injury problems are Alan Shearer, of Newcastle United, who is recovering from his third groin operation inside 12 months, Paul Gascoigne, sidelined by ankle trouble, Paul Merson, the Arsenal striker, who has a groin injury, and Darren Anderton, of Tottenham Hotspur, who has a hamstring problem. Les Ferdinand is also doubtful with a pulled hamstring.

Tony Adams, who is over his ankle injury, will probably take the captaincy in Shearer's absence, while Robbie Fowler, who has scored 26 goals for Liverpool so far this season, is likely to make his first appearance under Hoddle, perhaps alongside a fit-again Teddy Sheringham, who was forced out of the Italy match by his ankle problem.

Gascoigne's injury, which has perhaps saved Hoddle an awkward decision in view of the Rangers' playmaker's continuing gift for attracting controversial headlines, could leave an opening for Robbie Earle, of Wimbledon. Although 32, Earle has been in impressive form and was placed on standby for the Italian game. Chris Perry, another Wimbledon player, could also be called up. The central defender was picked out by Alex Ferguson after his displays against Manchester United and has been watched by Hoddle.

Nigel Martyn, of Leeds United, another to have been in superb form this season, is challenging David James for one of the goalkeeping places alongside David Seaman, who hopes to recover from the back injury that ruled him out of the Italy defeat, and Ian Walker.

TENNIS

Draw puts Henman on course for Chang

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN KEY BISCAYNE

TIM HENMAN could be forgiven if he felt a sense of déjà vu as he cast his eyes over the draw for the Lipton Championships, which start here today. The first opponent for the Great Britain No 1 will be a qualifier — either Julian Alonso, from Spain, or Steve Bryan, from the United States — and from there he heads towards Michael Chang, possibly by way of Richey Reneberg. It all seems rather too like the Australian Open for comfort.

It was Chang who brought Henman's remarkable start to 1997 to a halt, sending him home from the third round of the first grand slam of the year in straight sets. It was, by Henman's admission, a bad day at the office.

He had another one in the first round in Dubai, a mediocre day in the final in Antwerp, another in Milan and not a lot since, thanks to an elbow injury. If Henman wants to improve his recent work record he needs to rack up some overtime.

Nor does the subsequent draw look too inviting. Should Henman get past Chang — who won in Indian Wells last week — Thomas Enqvist, the No 6 seed, lies in wait before the chance of a meeting with Pete Sampras in the semi-finals. Like Henman, Sampras started off the year in top gear, but, unlike Henman, he has maintained the effort.

There are, however, some serious hurdles on Sampras's way to the latter stages. He faces the possibilty of a quarter-final showdown with Boris Becker, who will be easing his wrist back to full strength after a recurrence of the injury that put him out of Wimbledon last year and kept him off the circuit for three months.



Henman: tricky draw

Then again, Carlos Moya, who did for Becker in the first round in Australia, could face the German in the fourth round and be his undoing yet again.

As for the champion, Andre Agassi, the only sure thing about his form of late is that he continues to confound all those who watch him, supporters and critics alike. He won last year, when Goran Ivanisevic pulled out of the final with a neck injury, and then played like a drain through the European clay-court season and on into Wimbledon. Just when he looked to have hit rock bottom, Agassi won the Olympic gold medal in Atlanta. If there is any rhyme or reason to the American's form, it is that he does not travel well.

The women's game has more of a spring in its step this year. Rather than relying on the old stalwarts Steffi Graf and Monica Seles to make the headlines, the women are ready to crown Martina Hingis as the new queen of the rankings.

Regardless of what she does here in the coming days, she will take over from Graf as world No 1 at the end of the tournament. Graf, who is still fighting with a knee injury, is unable to defend the title she has won for the past three years.

Just to ginger things up in the women's ranks, Venus Williams will make her Lipton debut — against Ginger Helgeson Neilson, from the United States — with the chance to meet Jennifer Capriati in the second round.

Lodge completes rise with final recognition

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

STEVE LODGE, of Barnsley, has been selected to referee the FA Cup Final at Wembley on May 17. It completes his 12-year progression from the bottom of the Football League structure in 1984, when he became a linesman, to the top of the FA Carling Premiership. In England, being awarded the Cup Final is seen as the pinnacle of a referee's career and a reward for long, distinguished service.

Last season, Lodge incurred the wrath of many managers when he issued more cautions than any other Premiership official. This season, he has kept a lower profile. Although he booked eight players in the Sunderland v Leicester City game on the opening day, he has since averaged less than three yellow cards per match. He has sent off only one player — Ian Wright, the Arsenal striker.

"I suppose I've been lucky with the fixtures," Lodge said. "I read that I was top of the booking list last season, but I haven't really altered my style of refereeing. Perhaps the reputation I had has helped. I always go by the old adage: if the referee isn't mentioned, he's had a good game."

Lodge, 43, a local government officer, began refereeing in 1970. He was the fourth official at the Cup Final between Everton and Manchester United two years ago and has been on the list of Fifa, the sport's world governing body, for five years. He took charge of the World Cup qualifying match between Spain and Malta last month.

Neville Southall, the Everton goalkeeper, will play for Wales in their vital group seven World Cup qualifying tie against Belgium at the National Stadium on March 29. Southall, 38, missed the 0-0 draw against Ireland in Cardiff last month because of "domestic" reasons, but Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, said yesterday that Southall was certain to start the match, which Wales need to win to keep alive their hopes of reaching the finals in France next year.

Chris Wright, the owner of Queens Park Rangers, the Nationwide League first division club, and Wasps, the Courage Clubs' Championship rugby union side, has announced a pre-tax loss of £4.4 million for the holding company at Loftus Road. It was made during the period from May 13, when the clubs merged, to November 30; a loss per share of 16.2p was reported. However, Wright is adamant that funds will be available for Stewart Houston, the QPR manager, to strengthen his side and that Trevor Sinclair, the winger, would be staying.

Ajax officials snub Gil for refusing to apologise

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

JESÚS GIL Y GIL, the coarse-tongued owner of Atlético Madrid, the Spanish football club, lunched alone on the eve of his club's European Cup quarter-final second leg tie, snubbed by guests who accused him of being a racist.

Michael van Praag and Louis van Gaal, the owner and manager, respectively, of Ajax, the Dutch club who were in Madrid for the away leg of the tie, tore up their luncheon invitations after Gil refused to apologise for remarks that he made when his side played Ajax in Amsterdam two weeks ago.

He gave great offence to the Dutch on that occasion when he described Ajax, who have several black players, as "something out of the Congo".

Gil, whose robust utterances do much to enliven Spain's otherwise dull public life, made his observations to Spanish colleagues in his VIP box. Someone — it is not known who — then spilt the *frijoles* to the Dutch press, leading to outrage and threats of legal action.

Condemnation was swift, with Spanish human rights groups describing Gil as "a model of intolerance".

Black players in the Spanish football league were also critical. One of them, Roberto Carlos, the Brazilian, said: "I find his remarks about black players very offensive. Gil's problem is that he has an enormous paunch, which impedes his vision."

Gil denies that he is a racist. He insists that his words were intended only as personal observations, and that he has "absolutely nothing to apologise for". The Dutch think otherwise and have promised to give their Spanish host the widest possible berth in Madrid.

This is not the first time that Gil, who is also the Mayor of Marbella, on the Costa del Sol, has courted controversy. Early last year he punched a fellow football club owner for saying on the radio that the people of Marbella were "stupid for voting for that man Gil".

The incident, which occurred in public, shocked Spain, but Gil was unrepentant. "I was only doing my duty," he said later. "He should have shown more respect for the people of Marbella."

Yesterday, however, it was from Gil that respect was demanded. A spokesman for Ajax said: "He should have said sorry, but he hasn't."

☐ Hristo Stoichkov, the Barcelona striker, was named in the Bulgaria squad for the World Cup qualifying match against Cyprus on April 2 in spite of his vow that he would not play for the national team.

TUESDAY'S LATE FOOTBALL RESULTS

UEFA CUP: Quarter-finals, second leg: AS Monaco 3 Newcastle United 0 (Monaco win 4-0 on aggregate); Brondby IF 0 Tenerife 2 (aet; Tenerife win 2-1 on aggregate); Internazionale 2 Anderlecht 1 (Inter win 3-2 on aggregate); Valencia 1 Schalke 04 1 (Schalke win 3-1 on aggregate)

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Wimbledon 1 West Ham United 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	30	17	9	4	59	33	60
Liverpool	30	16	9	5	51	25	57
Arsenal	31	16	9	6	51	26	57
Newcastle	29	15	6	8	58	35	51
Sheff Wed	30	12	12	6	39	35	48
Aston Villa	30	13	8	9	35	27	47
Chelsea	29	12	10	7	50	43	46
Wimbledon	29	12	9	8	41	36	45
Leeds	31	11	7	13	24	32	40
Tottenham	29	11	5	13	35	38	38
Leicester	29	10	7	12	34	41	37
Blackburn	29	9	8	12	39	37	35
Everton	30	9	9	12	37	43	36
Derby	30	7	11	12	31	45	32
Sunderland	31	8	8	15	28	47	32
West Ham	30	7	9	14	28	40	30
Coventry	31	6	12	13	26	43	30
Notts For	31	6	11	14	26	47	29
Southampton	29	6	8	15	37	48	26
† Middlesbro	28	7	7	14	40	50	25

† Middlesbrough deducted three points

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Bolton Wanderers 4 Port Vale 2, Ipswich Town 3 Sheffield United 1, Oldham Athletic 1 Charlton Athletic 1, Oxford United 3 Grimsby Town 2, Stoke City 1 Wolverhampton Wanderers 0; Tranmere Rovers 1 Manchester City 1. Second division: Bristol City 0 Rotherham United 2; Crewe Alexandra 0 Millwall 0; Preston North End 2 Wrexham 1, Walsall 4 Blackpool 1, Watford 1 Bristol Rovers 0 Third division: Cardiff City 1 Scarborough 1

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Northern section: Final, first leg: Carlisle United 2 Stockport County 0. Southern section: Final, second leg: Colchester United 3 Peterborough United 0 (aet; 2-0 after 90mn, Colchester win 3-2 on aggregate with golden goal)

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Farnborough Town 2 Welling United 1, Rushden & Diamonds 1 Kettering Town 0 Spalding Cup: Semi-final, first leg: Morecambe 0 Macclesfield Town 2

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Gloucester City 6 Ashford Town 1; Halesowen 3 Dorchester 1, Sudbury Town 0 Atherstone 1, Midland division: Bilston Town 2 Raunds Town 2, Grantham Town 3 Moor Green 1, Ilkeston Town 4 Hinckley Town 0; Stafford Rangers 2 Sutton Coldfield Town 0, RC Warwick 1 Redditch Utd 2 Southern division: Fleet Town 1 Erith and Belvedere 4; Weymouth 1 Fareham Town 1, Yate Town 1 Cirencester Town 1.

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Boreham Wood 3 Dagenham and Redbridge 1, Bromley 2 Sutton United 1; Enfield 2 Carshalton 0, Grays 0 Purfleet 1; Hendon 0 St Albans 2; Staines 2 Yeading 3. First division: Uxbridge 5 Tooting and Mitcham United 0 Second division: Barnstead Athletic 2 Ware 0; Barking 2 Leatherhead 1; Bracknell Town 1 Edgware Town 2, Chalfont St Peter 2 Tilbury 1; Collier Row and Romford 1 Horsham 1; Hemel Hempstead 0 Bedford Town 6 Third division: Braintree Town 0 Harlow Town 0; Kingsbury Town 1 Hornchurch 1

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Bamber Bridge 1 Spennymoor 3; Chorley 2 Buxton 2; Lancaster 0 Marine 2; Witton Albion 1 Bishop Auckland 1. First division: Curzon Ashton 3 Stocksbridge PS 1, Matlock Town 3 Eastwood Town 0. Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Gainsborough Trinity 3 Accrington Stanley 1 (Gainsborough win 3-2 on aggregate).

GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Caersws 2 Welshpool 0

UNIJET SUSSEX LEAGUE: First division: Hailsham Town 1 Burgess Hill Town 2; Haywards 0 Horsham YMCA 0; Oakwood 1 Whitehawk 2, Peacehaven and Telscombe 0 Ringmer 2, Southwick 5 Selsey 0.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: West Ham United 0 Portsmouth 4.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Sheffield Wednesday 0 Blackburn Rovers 1. First division: Notts County 2 Coventry 2

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Barwell 3 Pelsall Villa 0; Borwich Town 1 Pershore Town 1, Bridgnorth Town 3 Rushall Olympic 1, Oldbury United 2 Halesowen Harriers 2; Rocester 2 Chasetown 1; Stapenhill 2 West Midlands Police 2; Stratford Town 1 Hinckley Athletic 1, Willenhall Town 2 Boldmere St Michaels 1.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton Collieries 0 Kidsgrove Athletic 0; Blackpool Rovers 5 Burscough 0; Glossop North End 3 Bootle 2; Nantwich Town 1 Prescot Cables 3. Newcastle Town 0 Vauxhall GM 1; Salford City 1 Mossley 1; Penrith 2 Maine Road 0.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: West Auckland 0 South Shields 2.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Concord Rangers 7 Bowers United 0, Southend Manor 2 Burnham Ramblers 2, Stansted 2 Ilford 1.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashfield United 1 Liversedge 1, Hatfield Main 0 Pickering Town 2, President's Cup: Final, second leg: Hucknall Town 3 Belper Town 1 (Hucknall win 3-2 on aggregate)

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Folkestone Invicta 0 Furness 1; Hythe United 2 Herne Bay 0, Tunbridge Wells 1 Slade Green 0; Whitstable Town 2 Ramsgate 1; Deal Town 3 Lordswood 1.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Clacton Town 3 Woodbridge Town 3, Diss Town 0 Wroxham 2; Lowestoft Town 1 Great Yarmouth Town 1; March Town Utd 1 Bury Town 3; Newmarket Town 2 Fakenham Town 1.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford Town 3 Viking Sports 2; Cove 2 Sandhurst Town 2.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Buckingham Ath 3 Brache Sparta 1; Harpenden Town 2 Biggleswade Town 2, Langford 0 Arlesey 3, Potters Bar Town 1 Toddington Rovers 0; Royston Town 1 Welwyn Garden City 0

BASS IRISH CUP: Quarter-final replay: Limavardy Utd 0 Omagh Town 1

SCHOOLS MATCH: English Schools Snickers Under-19 Trophy: Quarter-final: Monkseaton HS 1 John Port 0.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Austria 0 Slovenia 2 (in Linz)

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Toronto 117 Philadelphia 105; Indiana 115 Minnesota 97; Houston 97 New Jersey 89; New York 98 Vancouver 73; Chicago 89 Seattle 87 (OT), Washington 86 Dallas 85; LA Clippers 121 Phoenix 111; Portland 92 Sacramento 87.

BOWLS

PERTH: Women's home international international championships: England 134 Wales 99 (England skips first M Price bt B Morgan 27-14; M Steele bt R Jones 28-20; B Alderson bt A Dearnton 17-14; J Roylance bt D Rowlands 24-16, D Hankin bt J Ackland 21-15, N Shaw lost to G Miles 17-20).

CRICKET

Second Test match

West Indies v India

PORT OF SPAIN (final day of five) West Indies draw with India

WEST INDIES: First Innings 296 (R I C Holder 91, A R Kumble 5 for 104)

Second Innings

S L Campbell lbw b Kuruvilla	4
S C Williams c Kumble b Joshi	128
S Chanderpaul c Azharuddin b Joshi	79
B C Lara c Azharuddin b Kumble	19
C L Hooper c Laxman b Kumble	14
R I C Holder c Laxman b Joshi	9
†J R Murray not out	12
C E L Ambrose not out	10
Extras (b 8, lb 13, nb 3)	24
Total (6 wkts)	299

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-25, 2-201, 3-244, 4-252, 5-271, 6-273

BOWLING: Prasad 20-7-38-0, Kuruvilla 23-6-47-1, Kumble 40-9-109-2; Joshi 36-11-57-3; Ganguly 3-0-6-0; Laxman 9-3-21-0

INDIA: First Innings 436 (N S Sidhu 201, S R Tendulkar 88, R S Dravid 57; C E L Ambrose 5 for 87)

HOCKEY

KARACHI: Golden Jubilee tournament: Holland 6 England 0.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Pittsburgh 5 Buffalo 3, Colorado 4 Vancouver 2.

ICE SKATING

LAUSANNE: World championships: Men (after short programme): 1, A Urmanov (Russ) 0.5 factored placements; 2, T Eldredge (US) 1 0; 3, I Kulik (Russ) 1 5; 4, E Stoiko (Can) 2.0, 5, A Yagudin (Russ) 2 5; 17, S Cousins (GB) 8.5 Pairs (after short programme): 1, M Woetzel and I Steuer (Ger) 0.5; 2, M Eltsova and A Bushkov (Russ) 1 0; 3, E Berezhnaia and A Sikharulidze (Russ) 1 5; 4, J Mono and T Sand (US) 2 0; 5, K Ina and J Dungjen (US) 2.5; 21, L Rogers and M Aldred (GB) 10.5.

ROWING

LONDON: Schools head of the river race: Long course: Eights: 1, St Edward's 12min 59sec; 2, St Paul's 13 00; equal 3, Hampton and Abingdon, 13.07, 5, Radley 13 08, 6, Shrewsbury 13 09, 7, King's Chester 13 12; 8, Eton 13 13; 9, Kingston GS 13 15; 10, Oundle 13 19 Divisional winners: second eights: Eton 13.21, Third eights: Radley 13 58 Small school: Royal Belfast Al 13 41, Junior 16: Radley 13 mins 46 Girls: Lady Eleanor Holles 14 48 Quads: Junior: Sir William Bortase 13.51 J16: Tiffin 14 11 Girls: Junior: King's Canterbury 15 13 Fours: Junior: St Edward's 15 17 J16: Westminster 15.13 Junior novice: Pangbourne 16.38, J16 novice: Winchester 15.47, Girls' junior: Headington 16.24 Girls' J16: George Watson's 17.29 Short course: Eights: J15: Latymer Upper, 8.01, J15 novice: Monkton Combe 8.25 Girls novice: Pangbourne 9 29 Quads: J15: Windsor Boys 8.45, J15 novice: St George's 8 47, Girls' junior novice: Putney HS 9 30 Girls' J15: Lady Eleanor Holles 9 18 Fours: J15: Westminster 8.55.

RUGBY UNION

BUSA CHAMPIONSHIP: Finals: Men: Brunel University College 9 Loughborough University 8 Women: University College St Mark and St John 24 Edinburgh University 20 (both at Twickenham)

CLUB MATCH: Gloucester 29 Army 36

SAILING

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE: Fourth leg: Latest positions (Sydney to Cape Town, with miles to Cape Town, as at 12:50 GMT yesterday) 1, Group 4 3,556; 2, Concert 3,569; 3, Save The Children 3,577; 4, Toshiba Wave Warrior 3,577; 5, Global Teamwork 3,585; 6, Commercial Union 3,596; 7, Motorola 3,604; 8, 3Com 3,662; 9, Time & Tide 3,665; 10, Ocean Rover 3,671; 11, Courtaulds International 3,715; 12, Pause To Remember 3,735, 13, Nuclear Electric 3,747, 14, Heath Insured II 3,769.

TENNIS

ST PETERSBURG: Men's tournament: First round: M Stich (Ger) bt R Fromberg (Aus) 4-6, 7-5, 7-6; N Marques (Por) bt A Belov (Russ) 6-4, 6-2; D Vacek (Cz) bt P Fredrickssson (Swe) 6-4, 3-6, 6-2; S Simian (Fr) bt I Chelchiev (Russ) 6-4, 6-2; F Santoro (Fr) bt K Kucera (Slovakia) 6-4, 6-3; M Norman (Swe) bt J Wirnink (Hol) 7-5, 6-4; D Prinosil (Ger) bt L Rehmann (Ger) 6-2, 6-2; R Furlan (It) bt L Bürgsmuller (Ger) 7-6, 7-6; O Stanoitchev (Russ) bt G Pozzi (It) 6-3, 6-4; A Clement (Fr) bt A Olhovsky (Russ) 7-5, 4-1 ret.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

European Cup Winners' Cup

Quarter-finals, second leg

AEK Athens (0) v Pans S-G (0) (7 15)

AIK Solna (1) v Barcelona (3)

Fiorentina (2) v Benfica (0) (7 45)

Liverpool (1) v SK Brann (1) (7.45)

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Sudbury Town v Baldock

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Unifilla first division Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Harrogate Town (1) v Ashton United (2). Semi-final, first leg: Radcliffe v Stocksbridge PS.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Watford v Charlton (at Chesham FC)

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division: Leicester v Sheffield United (7.0).

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Alvechurch v Knowle

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Victory Shield under-15 international: Scotland v Wales (at Inverness, 7 15) FA Premier League Trophy: Under-19: Semi-final: Hampshire v Norfolk (at Southampton University, 3 0). Under-18: Semi-final: Oxfordshire v Devon (at Abingdon Town, 7 0). English Snickers Under-19 Trophy: Quarter-final: St Cuthberts, Northumberland v Wyke College, Humberside (1.30). English Girls Under-16 Vimto Trophy: Semi-final: Seaton Burn, Northumberland v Montgomery High, Lancashire (2 0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Leopards v Leicester (7.0).

BOWLS: Women's home international championships (at Perth)

GOLF: Sunningdale Foursomes.

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters (Co Kildare)

SPEEDWAY: Speedway Star Cup: Ipswich v Peterborough (7.30).

IN GERMANY, IF WE HAVE A FLAT BACK FOUR
WE BUY SOME NEW ONES.

Continental

OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF THE UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

ATHLETICS: BRITON IN GOOD SPIRITS FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS AFTER TWO HEART OPERATIONS

Tromans refuses to beat a retreat

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

FOR the motorists who last saw Glynn Tromans lying flat by the roadside in his running kit, waving away offers of help though in apparent distress, it might please them to know he made a full recovery. Two heart operations later, Tromans makes his debut for Great Britain in the world cross-country championships in Turin on Sunday.

While out running, Tromans's chest would tighten and, if he continued, he would feel out of breath, start to wheeze and his heart would thump, sometimes reaching 220 beats per minute. "I would feel like I had just completed the London Marathon," Tromans said. "Full of lactic acid, drained and shattered."

As these attacks grew more frequent — he suffered more than 70 in all — he found that, by lying flat on the ground, his heart rate would soon return to normal. "People would stop in their cars and ask if I needed help," Tromans recalled. "I would just lay there and say: 'I am alright, thanks very much'."

Which, of course, he was not. However, while medical experts strived for a year to diagnose his condition, Tromans stubbornly refused to abandon training. In an act of extraordinary defiance, he went to Cwmbran for his England track debut two summers ago after 11 attacks in the preceding month. As he was warming up for his 3,000 metres race, another attack developed.

"I had done my warm-up jog, and my stretching, and there were probably 15 minutes to go before the start," Tromans recalled. "I did my first stride down the track and the symptoms came on. I was thinking: 'What do I do? I know I am in trouble and a sensible person would not run, but I am making my England debut and it is just England against Wales, only four people in the race. I felt obliged." Tromans ran and finished second. There was neither rhyme nor reason to the attacks. Sometimes they would occur when he was running hard, sometimes when he was running easy. "Sometimes I could run for two hours, sometimes only for half a minute," Tromans said.

Not that he was put off. "I never thought of it in terms of being a serious health risk, although in retrospect I probably should have," Tromans said.

Although the attacks began in 1991, "they were not often enough to make me think there was something wrong." However, in 1995, his search for answers intensified, so frequent had the interruptions become. He had been forced to drop out of the world cross-country trial when in a qualifying position. Then he was frustrated in his attempt to impress Ian Stewart, the British Athletic Federation head of promotions.

"I had gone to Birmingham to train and Ian was there," Tromans said. "He had just replaced Andy Norman and I thought it would be a good chance to impress him. But I was unable to complete the session." His frustration grew as the list of those unable to cure him grew ever longer.

They included his doctor, two hospitals in Coventry, where he lives, an asthma and allergy research centre, and the British Olympic Medical Centre. "I was chasing around looking for answers," Tromans said. "Nobody even mentioned the heart. The emphasis was on the difficulty breathing." Finally, Dr Frank Newton, the national cross-country team doctor, sent him to a cardiologist.

"I thought it might be a heart condition," Newton said. "Normally for an athlete, the maximum heart rate is 220 minus your age. He would go along comfortably at 150 and suddenly it would go up to 220 and he would get a pain in his chest." Tromans was found to have extra nerve pathways in his heart. "The operations were to cut the extra pathways so he is left only with the ones he should have," Newton added. "He was getting extra sets of electrical messages and the effect was to push his heart rate much too high. Now he is getting only one set of electrical messages."

Since his second operation, ten months ago, Tromans's heart has been fine, though old frustrations, those of injury, have returned. Tonsillitis, stress fractures in both legs and a knee operation have contributed towards blank pages in his training diary over the years, and he would have made his Great Britain debut in November but for a calf strain.

"I did wonder whether I was jinxed," Tromans, 28, said. "I had been in the sport a long time and, just at the point where I was likely to make a breakthrough, something always seemed to go wrong."

However, at the British trials for Turin, he finished fourth, booking his place, and prompting Bud Baldaro, a Great Britain team coach, to say: "You can liken this to the guy playing Sunday soccer who, in his middle to late twenties, suddenly vaults to Premiership status."

It was an appropriate analogy, given that Tromans began running in frustration at his failure to make his secondary school football team, though he later played for Coventry Schools while his athletics looked less promising: he was 139th in his first English national, as a youth.

Now he is set for the world's hardest foot race, one more competitive than any Olympic or world championship track competition, because the Kenyans, the Ethiopians and the Moroccans have nine to a team. "If I can finish in the top 50, that would be a good performance," Tromans said. Nothing like his remarkable performance in getting to the start, though.

MARK THOMPSON / ALLSPORT



Tromans will make his Great Britain debut in Turin after a career blighted by his heart problem

Bournemouth's day of reckoning may echo long and loud

ANDREW LONGMORE



Bournemouth on the Brink, screams the local paper. So what else is news? Bournemouth were born on the brink, have been there, tottering, eyes closed, one step away from oblivion, for much of their history. And now the day has come, the receivers have no more to offer, the creditors are hammering at the gates of Dean Court and the local people, who responded so instinctively to the first appeals of the saviours, are inclined to let them in.

By tonight, AFC Bournemouth might no longer be a Football League club and thousands of supporters will go dewy-eyed and say what a disgrace it is that this should be allowed to happen to a club as well regarded as the Cherries. But what are the options? Not just for Bournemouth, but for so many of the lower-division clubs whose finances are held together by balsawood and cotton thread.

Darlington, with its obsolete wooden stand and its orange Portakabins, with its tin shed and tinpot management. Or Brighton, who will announce another rescue deal today, but still have no ground and no proper future. Or Doncaster Rovers, or Hartlepool United or Lincoln City. At least 20 clubs in the second and third divisions of the Nationwide League are threatened. Graham Kelly, the much derided chief executive of the Football Association and long-time supporter of Blackpool, is right when he says that the future of the lower divisions is the most important issue facing football in this country over the next decade.

The whole issue is shot through with arrogance. It is the arrogance of right, of entitlement, of the argument that something is automatically good because it has been there a long time. Listen to any bunch of supporters for any length of time and you will hear the wonderful, breathtaking arrogance of the little club man. Maybe optimism would be a kinder word.

I travelled with Fulham once, down to Swansea, for a last-day-of-the-season relegation decider. Fulham, as ever, were in dire straits off the field as well as on it. Craven Cottage was about to be sold and the club in debt. By the Chieveley services, rumours that a sugar daddy was on the brink of buying the club were circulating like wildfire; by the Severn Bridge, the name of Richard Branson had been put to the potential saviour; by the outskirts of Swansea, he was all but writing the cheque; by five o'clock, Fulham were relegated to the bottom division for the first time and it was all the manager's fault.

"See you next season," one supporter said, as he headed off into the night. "If there is a next season," muttered another. Of course, there will be. There is always another season. But perhaps not for Bournemouth.

Bournemouth have been there a long time, since 1899. For the past 87 years they have plied their trade at a quaint little home called Dean Court. They are part of the fabric of the town, a tassel rather than a central thread, but important in an "every town must have one" way. They are supported by 3,000 or 4,000 regulars, good people such as Trevor Watkins, a London-based solicitor, who has tried his heart out to resurrect the club his father weaned him on 30-odd years ago.

There are plenty like him up and down the country, but not enough. Otherwise, so many clubs would not be so close to extinction. If Brighton supporters had taken more care of their club all along, perhaps their plight might have been averted a few years ago. But still the arrogance persists, most recently in the rejection of the idea of feeder clubs. We are a League club, therefore we will survive. We must do, because everyone else does. It is the pack-of-cards theory of construction.

Would it be a tragedy if Brighton went out of the League? No, not really. It is economics and there are any number of thrusting Vauxhall Conference sides with spanking new stands and a new coat of paint on the dressing-room walls ready to take their place. Lower-division clubs should not be fantasising about Wimbledon, but about Wycombe Wanderers, who are struggling this season, but have maintained a Thatcherite grip on their purse-strings throughout their rise.

No one who has supported their home club for 30 years, the Plymouth Argyles, the Rotherham Uniteds and the Walsalls, only to find his offspring wearing a Dennis Bergkamp shirt, will need reminding how times have changed. The FA Carling Premiership and increased television coverage have warped allegiances so that the poorer clubs have to change their attitudes, get smart and cast away their ludicrous pretensions.

Today, in a Liverpool court, the Inland Revenue and the Customs and Excise will ask the judge for their £300,000 or a winding-up order for Bournemouth, the sixth in as many months. The club will ask for more time. Again. If Bournemouth go, Brighton will stay in the league and be saved. Sooner or later, others will not be so lucky. Then again, look on the bright side: the judge just might be a Tranmere Rovers fan.

☐ *John Bryant is away*

SNOOKER: FORMER WORLD CHAMPION NARROWLY AVOIDS MAKING EARLY EXIT

Parrott ends Murphy's stout resistance

From Phil Yates in Co Kildare

STEPHEN MURPHY gave John Parrott a considerable scare in the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters at Goffs here yesterday before the former world champion defeated him 6-5 in a keenly contested first-round match.

Murphy, the world No 61, who received a wild-card entry into the tournament, led 2-0 and even though Parrott subsequently compiled breaks of 48, 67 and 129, the highest of the event so far, to move 4-3 ahead, he was unable to stifle the stubborn resistance of his inexperienced but clearly determined rival.

Trailing 5-4, Murphy comfortably won the tenth frame and threatened to cause arguably the biggest upset in the tournament's 19-year history when on a run of 17 and occupying prime scoring position in the decider.

However, Murphy, a member of the Ireland team who surprisingly figured in the final of the World Cup in November, missed a vital black and Parrott put together a contribution of 51 to set up a meeting with Darren Morgan, the defending champion, in the quarter-finals.

Stephen Hendry, the favourite for the £72,000 first prize and his fifth title of the season, enters the fray this evening with a quarter-final against Jimmy White, an opponent to whom he has lost only once in the past five years. White's confidence, which is returning after a dismal start to the season, was further bolstered by a 6-3 first-round victory over Alan McManus on Tuesday. Even so, Hendry is widely expected to progress, having beaten White 5-2 in the quarter-finals of the recent International Open and the last 16 of the Thailand Open eight days ago.

RESULTS: Yesterday: First round: J Parrott (Eng) bt S Murphy (Ire) 6-5. Late Tuesday: R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt N Bond (Eng) 6-5.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

When dummy has shortage in a side suit, most declarers will appreciate the possibility of ruffing that suit. But it is more difficult to spot when dummy has three of the critical suit. This is an example from the Great Northern Pairs.

Dealer West — **E-W game** — **Matchpointed pairs**

	♠A86 ♥A10 ♦AJ64 ♣A1084	
♠Q1072 ♥K ♦Q52 ♣KQJ52	N W E S	♠J4 ♥QJ54 ♦109873 ♣93
	♠K953 ♥987632 ♦K ♣76	

W	N	E	S
Pass	1C	Pass	1H
Pass	2NT	Pass	3S
Pass	3NT	Pass	4H
All Pass			

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: king of clubs

West is close to an opening bid, despite his singleton king. Using traditional methods, South could sign off in Three Hearts over 2NT, but the modern trend at duplicate is to play more and more bids as forcing. Hence North-South found themselves in a marginal game.

Declarer's first priority is to shed the club loser, so he must take the ace of clubs, the king of diamonds, cross to dummy with a major-suit ace, and discard his second club on the ace of diamonds. That is still only nine tricks. In practice, some declarers made a tenth by establishing the jack of diamonds. However, at our featured table South took a simpler and more elegant course. He crossed to dummy with the ace of spades, and cashed the ace of diamonds. Then he played king and another spade, and eventually ruffed his long spade with dummy's ten of trumps. In all he lost just a spade and two trump tricks.

Notice that if declarer had crossed to dummy with the ace of hearts, East could have ruffed the third spade low and drawn dummy's remaining trump.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

World record

Gawain Jones, 9, a pupil at Ampleforth Junior School and graded a lowly 117 on the British Chess Federation scale, has become the youngest player in the history of chess to beat an international master in an official tournament game. His victim was Malcolm Pein, the London master player and chess correspondent for *The Daily Telegraph*. Gawain is the British Under-10 champion and has been jointly trained by two experts, Leonard Barden and Angus Dunnington. The nine-year-old's sensational victory came in a quick-play tournament at Stockton which had attracted many of the country's leading players, including grandmasters Michael Adams, Bogdan Lalic and Stuart Conquest. Apart from winning this remarkable game, Gawain also surprised experts by sharing fourth place in the tournament ahead of the reigning British champion Chris Ward.

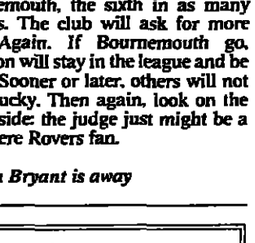
The game itself was a complicated affair. The nine-year-old resisted stoutly against the master's superior strategic skills. Gawain did his best to muddy the waters but in the diagram position he chose the passive retreat 23 ... Nh6, which allowed Pein to establish a winning position. Instead 23 ... Nd6 24 exd6 Rxc3, might have kept some tactical chances alive for Black. In the final position Black's situation must be considered lost but at that point Pein's clock time dramatically ran out and Gawain won by time forfeit. This is the first time that the moves of this game have been published.

White: Malcolm Pein
Black: Gawain Jones
Stockton, March 1997

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	g6
6	I4	Bg7
7	Bb5+	Bd7
8	Qe2	0-0
9	Bxd7	Qxd7
10	Be3	Qg4
11	Nf3	Nc6
12	0-0-0	Nh5
13	Qd2	Rac8
14	h3	Qd7
15	e5	Ng3
16	Rhe1	Nb4
17	a3	Rxc3
18	axb4	Rc7
19	Bf2	Qa4
20	Kb1	Rfc8
21	c3	dxe5
22	bxe5	Nf5
23	g4	

Diagram of position after White's 23rd move



		Nh6
24	Be3	Qb3
25	Nd4	Qa4
26	Bxh6	Bxh6
27	Qxh6	e6
28	Nf3	a5
29	Rd3	axb4
30	Red1	Re8
31	Ng5	

White lost on time

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

CONTRACTS & TENDERS

1. NOTICE OF PREQUALIFICATION

1. The Republic of Cyprus, Ministry of Communications and Works (MCW), Public Works Department (PWD) intends to prequalify road construction firms for projects which are briefly described below. The projects will be financed by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus. However the projects may be partly funded from loans which the Government may obtain from local or international funding bodies.

a) Construction of new motorways to similar or better standards to those existing on the island. These would be generally of 4-lane or 6-lane carriageway construction, and would include interchanges, viaducts, bridges and culverts. Construction period for the various schemes will vary between 12 months and 36 months approx. depending on the particular project.

b) Construction and improvement of rural and suburban roads. These works include new construction, reconstruction, widening of roads and, where appropriate, minor realignment of the existing routes. Estimated construction values for the candidate schemes will vary from 1.0 to 30.0 million U.S. dollars approximately. Construction period for the various schemes will vary between 12 months and 30 months approx. depending on the particular project.

c) Rehabilitation, pavement strengthening and periodic maintenance of rural and suburban roads. Estimated construction values for the candidate schemes will vary from 0.5 to 10.0 million U.S. dollars. Construction period for the various schemes will vary between 6 months and 12 months, approx. depending on the particular project.

2. It is an essential requirement that all aspects of construction shall be executed to generally accepted standards in compliance with internationally recognised specifications for materials and workmanship.

3. Prequalification is open to road construction firms and Joint Ventures of such firms worldwide. However, prequalification shall be subject to approval by any relevant Funding Body which may finance the candidate schemes. Local contractors must be registered in accordance with the Cyprus Registration and Control of Contractors Law and be classified in the First Category for Civil Works.

4. Interested contractors may inspect or obtain further information or obtain the Prequalification Document, free of charge, from the office of:

The Director, Public Works Department,
Ministry of Communications and Works,
Roads Division, Procurement Section,
Nicosia-Cyprus. Telefax: 02-448001, Tel: 02-302808

as from the 2nd April 1997. To avoid delays interested contractors are advised to obtain the Prequalification Document either in person or through an authorised representative.

5. The Prequalification Document may also be requested by any interested applicant by submission of a written application to the above address. The PWD, MCW will promptly despatch the documents by registered airmail, but under no circumstances can it be held responsible for late delivery or loss of the documents so mailed.

6. The Prequalification Document must be duly completed and returned to the President, Main Tender Board, Accountant-General's Office, Treasury Headquarters, Nicosia-Cyprus, to be received before 9.00am local time on Friday 30 May 1997.

LEGAL NOTICES

EASTERN TRACTORS LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

A meeting of the creditors of Eastern Tractors Limited is to be held at Price Waterhouse, 10 Bricket Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 3JX on 4 April 1997 at 11.00am under the provisions of Section 46 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report of the receivers and if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a committee of creditors. Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and wish to attend should contact the receivers' office (telephone number 01727 844155) and ask for Ian Delany.

Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.

SIGNED Hancock, Joint Administrative Receiver, Eastern Tractors Limited
13 March 1997

Cloudgrove Limited
t/as Maddox Fashions
(IN CREDITORS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, notice is hereby given that I, J.J.Schapira, ACA, a Licensed Insolvency Practioner of Messrs Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LF, was appointed Liquidator of the above Company by the members and creditors on 24th February 1997. All debts and claims should be sent to me at the above address.

All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their claims in writing to me. No further public advertisement of invitation to prove debts will be given.

DATED THIS 14th March 1997
J.J.Schapira, ACA, Liquidator

Hook Advertising Limited
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, on 2nd April 1997 at 14.30 for the purposes provided in Section 98 et seq.

It is not intended to propose any resolutions at the meeting concerning Liquidators remuneration, however the meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the Statement of affairs and convening the meeting.

A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00am to 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.

DATED THIS 17th March 1997
Christopher John Joseph
Director

AXYS CORPORATE LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held at the offices of Poppleton & Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester M4 1QD on Thursday 3rd April 1997 at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act. Pursuant to Section 98 subsection (2)(a) of the Act, Mr Peter Lomas of Poppleton & Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester M4 1QD is appointed to act as the Qualified Insolvency Practioner who will furnish creditors with such information as they may reasonably require.

DATED THIS 14TH DAY OF MARCH 1997
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
P McIZON, DIRECTOR

KEYDIME LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of The Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above named Company will be held at 7 Kenrick Place, London, W1H 3FF on 21st March 1997 at 12.00 noon for the purposes provided for in the Section 98 et seq.

A list of the names and addresses of the above Company's Creditors can be inspected at the offices of Latham Crossley & Davis, 7 Kenrick Place, London, W1H 3FF, between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.

Dated this 12th March 1997
Martyn J Dawson, Director

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE

0171 680 6878

OR

FAX: 0171-481 9313

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

CHANK
a. An old golf club
b. To disagree
c. The shell of a gasteropod

CHANOYU
a. Japanese tea ceremony
b. A Judo throw
c. Black mica

CHAPE
a. Brass-rubbing
b. A plate on a scabbard
c. An instrument of torture

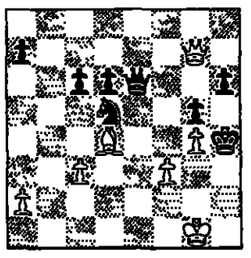
CHAYOTE
a. A Dingo cross
b. An extinct fish
c. A tropical cucumber

Answers on page 54

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Schlechter — Metger, Vienna 1899. The black king has been forced up the board and into dangerous territory. However, it is not immediately obvious how White can exploit this, as his own king is somewhat exposed. Can you see his fine solution?



Solution on page 54

Men's final at world championships promises to set new standards

Skaters taking a quantum leap through the wall

FROM SIMON BARNES IN LAUSANNE

STATISTICIANS talk about the Right Wall. It is the vertical line on the grass beyond which you cannot go. Further improvement, greater complexity, additional aspiration: none of these can exist beyond the Right Wall. The speed of light is a Right Wall; so is absolute zero. You simply cannot be faster or colder than these two things.

It is the task of the great athlete — perhaps of human kind — to storm that Right Wall. The history of sport turns and turns again on the battering of one illusory obstacle after another. The most famous of all these was the four-minute mile. It looked like a Right Wall, it felt like a Right Wall, but when men and the time were right, it turned out to be a paper hoop. Roger Bannister plunged through it and hundreds of athletes have followed.

It is beyond question that a Right Wall exists for physical achievements, but where exactly does it lie? As athletes have crashed through a succession of paper hoops throughout sporting history, so they have inched and centimetred their way towards the real Right Wall. The nine-second 100 metres? The two-hour marathon? No doubt future generations of sports writers will discuss such matters in centuries to come.

In the sport of ice skating, the Right Wall has always been the quad. The quadruple jump: four rotations, 1440 degrees. Triples have become commonplace, the bread and butter of the elite. What sorts out the champions from the rest thus far has been the combinations: to bounce from triple to triple, and to do so clean, hard and high: that is what winners do, must do. And here, it seems, they dwelt at the foot of the Right Wall.

No longer. Here, at the world figure skating championships, all this is being redefined. For the first time the world championship will be decided by a new standard. Who quads wins.

No fewer than three of the leading contenders at the world championships are threatening to perform a quad jump tonight in the final of the men's event. All three have already taken off in quad jumps in this competition: but only two of them have landed.

"It looks easy," Alexei Urmanov, of Russia, said, "but the last two practices it was a problem for me." Ilya Kulik, another Russian, also nailed — American sportspeak for practically any form of success — his quad. This was after breaking a blade off his skates when practising a mere triple. His mother managed to send him a replacement from Russia and the new blade is working like a charm.

Elvis Stojko, the gloriously named Canadian, has long been fighting a crusade to bring skating into line as the most macho of all sports. He prefers wearing leather wristbands and torn jeans to swan costumes and frilly blouses. Musical interpretation is for wimps: you glide for show, but you quad for dough.

> 'Three leading contenders have taken off in quad jumps in the competition, but only two have landed'

He was the quadder who missed, though, tumbling on landing. "But it felt good. We are on track for Thursday," he said. Stojko is also a black belt in the martial arts, perhaps the only form of art he really recognises. "Martial arts help me remain composed," he said. "It looks good and there will definitely be a quadruple in the programme."

This was after the men's short programme yesterday, which provides a third of the total marks: the real showdown comes in the free programme tonight. The qualifying programme is for throwing down the gauntlet. The short programme, with its various "required elements", is for setting the standard. Tonight is the shoot-out.

Yet there are a couple of ironies here for quad watchers. The early pace was set by the defending champion, Todd Eldredge, of the United States, who is a quad-free zone. His short programme was a performance of breathtaking precision, all clean and perfect edges and jumps that flowed rather than shook the building.

The scene-stealer was, of course, a Frenchman. You can always tell a French skater by the discrepancies in the marking. Nearly a full mark separated the judges' response to Laurent Tobel after his glorious, knockabout, Fernandelesque routine. "My style is a result of my personality," he shrugged afterwards. He will not win or even come close, but his performance today will bring the house down.

The quad has been landed a few times before. Kurt Browning, of Canada, was the first in 1988, but Urmanov and Stojko landed one in 1991. In ice-skating no jump is 100 per cent reliable: every triple is a risk and that is where the sport comes into the whole business.

And with a quad the odds are stacked against you. Stojko has tried and missed with quads in successive world championships, but he is fancied here to pull off a big one: a quadruple followed by a triple in combination, seven revolutions in a couple of seconds. He has already done it once in competition this year. To do it again would be to play an ace. His coach, Doug Leigh, never tires of telling us that more people have landed on the moon than have landed a quad-triple. Canadians have made a habit of relocating skating's Right Wall. In 1962, Donald Jackson landed the first triple lutz; in 1978, Vern Taylor nailed the first triple axel. Then came Browning's earth-shattering first quad and then Stojko's combination. However, Stojko's rough, but effective, short programme left him in fourth place yesterday.

The advantage was stolen by Urmanov, a sumptuous routine from a man who has never understood that grace can compromise your masculinity. But then he is seriously Russian. He is in pole position going into the free programme tonight. It is set to be the biggest shoot-out in ice skating history.

Results, page 52

KEVIN LAMARQUE



Stojko was first to perform a quad-triple combination and may attempt another tonight

Urmanov holds narrow lead

ALEXEI URMANOV, the Olympic champion from Russia, narrowly beat off the challenge of his rivals to hold first place after the men's short programme at the world figure skating championships in Lausanne yesterday. He is ahead of Todd Eldredge, of the United States, and Ilya Kulik, of Russia. If any one of the leading three wins the long programme today, he will take the gold medal.

Elvis Stojko, of Canada, the champion in 1994 and 1995, was fourth with Alexei Yagudin, another Russian and only 17, in fifth place. All the leading skaters performed the difficult triple axel-triple toe loop combination in their routines, but it was the presentation that proved decisive. Urmanov's routine, performed to a hard rock beat, earned him eight 5.9s in the presentation mark, compared with the string of 5.8s awarded to Eldredge for his interpretation of *Walk on the Wild Side*.

"It was a tough start to the competition, so many good programmes, but I feel great and I skated well," Urmanov said. "It's going to be tough again tomorrow, but I'm going to come out fighting for the gold medal and, of course, there will be a quad in the programme." The quadruple jump involves making four rotations and at least ten skaters are capable of landing a quad in the final free programme.

Stojko has a chance of taking gold, but he has to win today and hope that Urmanov falters badly. He has never hedged on attempting a quad and hit the first quad-triple combination in competitive history at the Champions Final last month. Urmanov said he was ready too, after hitting an easy quad in qualifying on Sunday.

Kulik is looking for more than a simple quad. "If my quad is good then I will try the combination," he said.

RADIO CHOICE

Putting a foot in the past

Dr Rock Meets Jerry Lee Lewis. *Radio 2, 10.00pm.*

There are some broadcasters who have made a career out of knowing a number of people in a specific field extremely well and Charles White can truly be counted as one of them. Nothing remarkable there, except that by profession he is a chiropodist. White, alias Dr Rock, has spent a quarter of a century getting to know some of the leading figures in rock music, in between treating in-growing toenails in Scarborough. This series on Jerry Lee Lewis demonstrates that White has patience as well as patients, for it is the product of countless hours listening to Lewis, his several ex-wives and various musical associates. If you like the music you will love this.

One Bright Child. *Radio 4 (FM only), 10.00am.*

The start of a five-part drama series which has a strong biographical feel, even before one consults the background notes that accompany it. The story concerns Gloria, who leaves Jamaica with her mother to emigrate to Britain in 1936. She has an unhappy time at school in London but sheer determination takes her to Cambridge University. But her ambition to become a lawyer is threatened when she meets and falls in love with George, who is white and working class. Patricia Cumper has based the story, albeit loosely, on the experiences of her mother. Diane Parish plays Gloria and Jamie Glover (son of Julian) is George. The director is Marian Nancarrow.

Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe, includes Newsbeat 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley, includes at 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Kevin Greening 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Evening Session with Steve Lamacq 8.30 John Peel 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Dave Pearce 4.00am Clive Warren with the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Paul Heiney 7.00 Miles Meets Mighty Mouse. A beginner's guide to the world of computing 7.30 David Allan 9.00 Paul Jones 10.00 Dr Rock Meets Jerry Lee Lewis. See Choice (1/3) 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mair 2.00 Ruscoe on Five 4.00 Nationwide with Julian Worricker 7.00 News Extra 7.35 The Thursday Match Commentary on the Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final, second leg between Liverpool and SK Brann, of Norway 9.30 Sportshop with Adrian Goldberg 10.00 News Talk with Paul Reynolds 11.00 News Extra with Valerie Sanderson 12.00 After Hours — Early Call with Vincent Hanna 2.00am Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Deeley 7.00 Moz Dee's Sportszone 10.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. News on the hour 5.30am Europe Today 7.15 Red Dwarf (6/12) 7.30 Network UK 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 Composer of the Month 8.45 Health Matters 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Sports International 9.45 Sport 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Red Dwarf (6/12) 11.30 Meridian On Screen 12.05pm World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Assignment 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Multitrack 3.05 Sport 3.15 From Our Own Correspondent 3.30 Network UK 4.15 World Today 4.30 BBC English 4.45 Britain Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sport 6.30 Assignment 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Words of Faith 7.30 John Peel 9.05 Business 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Meridian Books 10.30 World Today 10.45 Sport 11.10 Take Five 11.15 Soundbyte 11.30 World Ranking 12.30am Good Books 12.45 Britain Today 1.30 Outlook 1.55 Words of Faith 2.30 A History of the British Theatre 3.15 Sport 3.30 Focus on Faith 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Breakfast Show 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto. Albrechtsberger (Harp Concerto in C major) 3.00 Jamie Crick 7.00 Classic Newsnight 7.30 Sonata. Debussy (Cello Sonata) 8.00 Evening Concert. Respighi (La Primavera): Beethoven (Sonata for Piano and Violin F Op 24 Spring): Schumann (Symphony No 1 in B flat Spring); Stravinsky (The Rite of Spring) 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Horne 7.00 Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Randal Lee Rose

RADIO 3

6.00am **On Air.** Includes Reger (Variations and Fugue on a Theme of Mozart); Mozart (Oboe Concerto in C, K314); Carlo Farina (Capriccio Stravagante); Vaughan Williams (Five Variants on *Dives and Lazarus*); Bach (Trio Sonata No 6, BWV530); Copland (Clarinet Concerto)
9.00 **Morning Collection.** Includes Mussorgsky, arr. Rimsky-Korsakov (Intermezzo in Modo Classico); Bach (Three Part Inventions, BWV787-801); Haydn (String Quartet in B flat, Op 76 No 4)
10.00 **Musical Encounters.** Presented by Mairi Nicholson. Includes Rameau (Overture Platée); Grieg (Violin Sonata No 3 in C minor, Op 45); Tchaikovsky (Valse des Fleurs; Pas de Daux; Valse Finale); Mozart (Piano Sonata in B flat)
12.00 **Composer of the Week: Henry Cowell**
1.00pm **In Repertory.** The *Times* opera critic, Rodney Milnes, talks to Nicolai Gedda (5/5)
2.00 **The BBC Orchestras.** BBC Philharmonic under Martyn Brabbins. With Susan Parry, mezzo, Falla (Interlude and Dance; El Amor Brujo; Three-Cornered Hat Suites Nos 1 and 2) (r)
3.00 **BBC Symphony Chorus,** under Stephen Jackson. With Lesley-Jane Rogers, soprano, Deborah Miles-Johnson, mezzo, Neil Mackenzie and Chris Hobkirk, tenors, Simon Birchall, bass. Rutti (Magnificat; Alpha and Omega; Nunc Dimittis: Missa Angelorum; O Magnum Mysterium)
4.15 **Before Stravinsky,** with Anthony Burton (2/2)
5.00 **Music Machine.** Tommy Pearson looks at the continuing influence of the 1960s on today's pop music
5.15 **In Tune,** with Sean Rafferty. Includes Tchaikovsky (Elegy): Rossini (Overture: The Seige of Corinth); Haydn (Trumpet Concerto in E flat)
7.30 **Rites of Spring.** BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Mark Wigglesworth. With Sarah Walker, mezzo, Stravinsky (Fireworks; Apollo; The Faun and the Shepherdess; Petrushka)
9.15 **Paperback Writers.** Andy Martin talks to the novelist and Nobel laureate Saul Bellow (4/5)
9.40 **The Man Who Started It All.** Philip Doghan, tenor, sings a selection of songs by the English composer and mystic Cyril Scott and Julian Lloyd Webber performs Scott's Pastoral and Reel
9.55 **Smart to Be Smart.** Rabbi Julia Neuberger recalls her student days at Cambridge
10.00 **Music Restored.** Women in Early Music. With Anthony Rooley, lute, and Evelyn Tubb, soprano. Includes music by Purcell, Eccles and Blow (4/4)
10.45 **Night Waves.** The historian Roy Foster on the legacy of William Butler Yeats
11.30 **Composers of the Week: Campra, Clérambault and Morrelair** (r)
12.30 **Jazz Notes,** with Digby Fairweather. Includes a studio session by the clarinettist Monty Sunshine and his band
1.00 **Through the Night**

RADIO 4

5.55am **Shipping (LW)** 6.00 News 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, includes Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament
9.00 **News** 9.05 **The Moral Maze.** A discussion series chaired by Michael Buerk. With guests David Cook, Janet Daley, Michael Mansfield, QC, and Dr David Starkey
10.00 **News; One Bright Child (FM).** See Choice (1/5)
10.00 **Daily Service (LW)**
10.15 **On This Day (LW)**
10.30 **Woman's Hour,** with Jenni Murray
11.30 **From Our Own Correspondent**
12.00 **News; You and Yours,** with Mark Whittaker
12.25pm **Foul Play.** Murder mystery panel game. With Simon Brett and guests 12.55 Weather
1.00 **The World at One,** with Nick Clarke
1.40 **The Archers** (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 **News; Thursday Afternoon Play: All of Me Tempting,** by Max Hillman. With Peter Sallis and Rosemary Leach
3.00 **News; The Afternoon Shift.** Includes the chorister Michael Morris taking a final bow with the Hereford Choral Society
4.00 **News** 4.05 **Kaleidoscope.** Paul Allen sees an exhibition of the Victorian artist Alma-Tadema in Liverpool and reviews George Bernard Shaw's *Misalliance*
4.45 **Short Story: War-Torn,** by Richard Reeve. Read by Stephen Thorne
5.00 **PM** 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 **Six O'Clock News**
6.30 **Harry Hill's Fruit Corner.** A new six-part series for the offbeat comedian. With Burt Kwouk, Edna Dore, Al Murray, and Martin Hyder
7.00 **News** 7.05 **The Archers**
7.20 **In Paradise.** Noah Richler uses the clues gleaned from gardens of different religious cultures to explore our ideas of paradise (1/4)
8.00 **Children of the Drum.** The Ugandan journalist Joel Kibazo talks to traditional African leaders about the resurgence in tribal loyalties and the disillusionment with the modern state (r)
8.45 **Stages of Redemption,** with Chaim Potok (5/6)
9.00 **Does He Take Sugar?** The programme made for, and by, people with disabilities. With Frederick Dove
9.30 **Kaleidoscope** (r) 9.59 Weather
10.00 **The World Tonight,** with Robin Lustig
10.45 **Book at Bedtime: The Duel,** by Joseph Conrad. Read by Stephen Boxer (4/5)
11.00 **Pet Semetary.** A dramatisation for radio of the chilling novel by Stephen King. With John Sharian, Briony Glassco and Lee Montague (5/6)
11.30 **Utopia and Other Destinations (FM).** Ian McEwan explains his idea of Utopia (1/6)(r)
11.30 **Today in Parliament (LW)**
12.00 **News** 12.30am **The Late Book: The Hobbit,** by J.R.R. Tolkien. Read by Michael Hordern (14/15)(r)
12.48 **Shipping Forecast**
1.00 **As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 53

CHANK
(c) A large kind of shell (*Turbinella rapa*) prized by the Hindus, and used by them for offering libations, as a horn to blow at the temples, and for cutting into amulets and other ornaments. It is found specially in the Gulf of Manaar. From Sanskrit into Hindi and Portuguese.

CHANOYU
(a) The Japanese tea ceremony. Transliteration of the Japanese word.

CHAPE
(b) The metal plate or mounting of a scabbard or sheath. Particularly that which covers the point. In some early quotations it may mean the scabbard or sheath itself. From the French for a churchman's cope, from the Latin *capa* a hood, cope or cape.

CHAYOTE
(c) The chocho or tropical cucumber. A native name in Brazil. The name in the West Indies of a cucurbitaceous plant (*Sechium edule*), cultivated for its wholesome, succulent fruit.

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SKIING

Britons fall short in head-to-head contest

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN TIGNES, FRANCE

THE growing attraction of the dual slalom discipline — racing head-to-head down short, parallel courses — was underlined by a thrilling final to the international team parallel slalom at the British Land national championships here yesterday.

A strong Austria 2 team, lead by Christian Schwaiger, who is coaching the British men's technical team, and featuring a mix of younger athletes and coaches, were held to a dead heat by the Great Britain B team of Mark Reilly, Shona Robertson, Finlay Mickel and John Moulder-Brown. A re-run was called for and Schwaiger raced first and established a lead of one gate after Reilly hesitated between the start gate and the first turn. The British team, which had an average age of just 20, was unable to get over that setback, but kept the final margin of defeat to less than one gate.

The British B team drew some consolation from a semi-final defeat of Great Britain A, who included Emma Carrick-Anderson, the favourite to win the women's downhill, and Andrew Freshwater, the men's downhill champion.

The head-to-head racing format is being endorsed increasingly by the International Ski Federation (FIS), which, for the first time, incorporated it in the Europa Cup finals in Les Arcs, France earlier this month. It will be a key part of the programme for the Europa Cup finals next year, when they will be held in Scotland for the first time.

HOCKEY

England washed away by Dutch tidal wave

England 0
Holland 6

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN IN KARACHI

ENGLAND suffered a crushing defeat in the five-nation Golden Jubilee tournament here yesterday, Holland completing the rout by scoring three goals in the last nine minutes.

As one-sided as the result may seem, England had the edge in the first half, which ended with Crutchley shooting straight at the goalkeeper from a pass by Sharpe, who was England's strongest front runner.

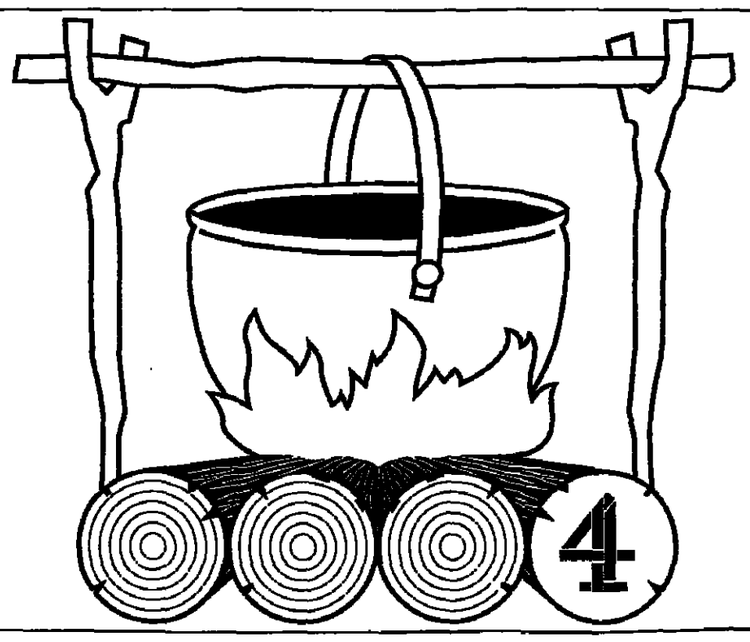
From then onwards, however, everything went wrong. Garcia's penalty stroke midway through the second half hit a post and two goals were conceded when Fordham was under suspension.

Holland led 1-0 at half-time, Lomans having converted a short corner in the 29th minute. Eikleboom, a substitute forward, increased their advantage two minutes into the second half and Broek added the third goal in the 55th minute, barely two minutes after Garcia's ill-fated penalty stroke.

From the 61st minute, England were engulfed by a tidal wave of Dutch attacks. Veen, the captain, scored twice and Broek added the sixth goal a minute from time.

ENGLAND: G Lewis; J Wallis, A Humphrey, W Waugh, B Garrard, G Fordham, B Sharpe, J Pidcock, R Garcia (capt), R Crutchley, M Pearn. Subs used: N Conway, D Hall, B Garrard.
HOLLAND: R Jansen, D Bree, A Jazet, D Loots, S van Reeswijk, S Veen (capt), J Delmee, S van de Weide, N Werne, T van Maer, D Burns. Subs used: B Lomans, M Eikelboom, R Broek.
Umpires: D Prior (Australia), Rashid Ali Khan (Pakistan)

A Cook on the Wild Side: Tonight 8.30



Didactic but wonderfully entertaining stuff

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

It's always a pleasure when *scientists* are good at metaphors. Last night, the first of a new series of **Seven Wonders of the World** (BBC2) gave us Professor Aubrey Manning — an enthusiastic natural history professor in colourful knitwear — who described "parallel evolution" in simple and enlightening terms. Look at the early days of motor-racing, he said; competing against each other were cars with big wheels, small wheels, wide wheels. But the variety was experimental, and destined not to last. If the racing-car is now boringly uniform, that's because the best design won. Similarly, if evolution demanded a "best dog", sooner or later it would end up with a wolf.

Seven Wonders was a pleasant science programme, designed in a shamelessly Reithian way to infect us with informed enthusiasm. It was also cheap, with no special filming trips to the Grand Canyon, for example — just stock footage together with a wistful look in Manning's eye (nice try, *professor*). Luckily he chose "Trees" and "Durham Cathedral" as well, thus giving him a couple of days out, although I must say I was worried by the Durham Cathedral section. Kicking off with an old clip of Alec Clifton-Taylor (speaking from a quarry), it momentarily suggested Manning had chosen Clifton-Taylor himself — a nice thought, but sacrilegious in the context, setting a mere man alongside such marvels as mechanical engineering.

But for a scientist with a knack for metaphor, one turned to Adam Curtis's gripping documentary **The Way of All Flesh** (in BBC2's *Modern Times*). *The Way of All Flesh* concerned the little-known (but vastly significant) story of the virulent cancer cells propagated from one single person's body: a black American woman called Henrietta Lacks. Ever since these "HeLa" cells were first harvested in 1951, they have burgeoned in test tubes around the world, and have run out of control. Cell biologist Walter Nelson-Rees blew the whistle on Henrietta in the 1970s. HeLa cells got into experiments like weeds, he said. Making circles with his outstretched forearms, he indicated "a rose here, a geranium there", but covering all his imaginary garden — thick and knotted — were Henrietta's weeds.

Adam Curtis was the young chap who brought us *Pandora's Box* in the early 1990s, a fascinating series which illustrated failed scientific certainties of the 20th century. The modern faith in science to solve all ills turned out to be a faith that is repeatedly misplaced. "Can" and "do" are not words to be linked together so lightly. Viewers may remember his excellent DDT programme in which a die-hard DDT supporter alarmingly poured white pesticide into his hand like Quaker Oats and licked it up.

Curtis adores nostalgic American television footage — and with cancer research as his subject, he was well provided with it. *Cancer Can be Conquered! actually* featured Dr Guy, the researcher who first used Henrietta Lacks's cells and made them grow. "I'm Bing Crosby," growled the emaciated crooner, introducing a starry night in aid of the American Cancer Society in the early 1970s. Joan Crawford made a terrifying speech from a lectern, exhorting the world to track down that cancer virus and kill it. People are *dying*, she explained. "I do Not Approve," she declared in ringing, patriotic tones, "And I am Not Resigned."

But declaring war on cancer seems not to have scared it much; meanwhile Henrietta Lacks's cells have inexplicably turned up in experiments all over the world, ruining them. In the early 1970s, the Russians announced they had found the cancer virus, but when findings were checked, it was the same old story. Walter Nelson-Rees was the man equipped with the handy imagery again: "Take your marbles home," he told those disappointed Russians. "We're not going to play with your marbles." It was a depressing time for the scientists. As a result of the publicity, the Lacks family finally learnt that bits of their Mom were still alive.

Following on from *Modern Times*, Jonathan Meades's **Even Further Abroad** (BBC2) explained the Andy Warhol approach to Campbell's soup tins, and extended it. "Anything is fantastical if you stare at it long enough," he said. "It's even more fantastical if you stare at hundreds of it." While demoralised cell scientists would be unlikely to agree, this theory provided Meades with a means to find "installation art" in the uniform landscape of the fens — drainage pipes piled up, telegraph poles encamped together, tyres in heaps. The "open prison of the fens" is rich in linear forms, it turns out. Even the horizon is straight. Even the dancing is in lines.

Finally, talking of open prisons, the watchable **Insiders** (BBC1) reached its penultimate episode, with a heavy-handed moral lesson on the importance of rehabilitation. Had prison-idiot Binnie (Graham Taylor) been adequately prepared for life outside? Well no, he hadn't. Instead, he had learnt to make model gypsy caravans out of matchsticks, and had taken excessive pride in his duties as bike monitor. He could, in short, be put behind glass as an example of Late 20th Century Hopelessly Institutionalised Man.

Naturally, one felt sorry for Binnie, but annoyed that the virtuous Woody (Adrian Rawlins) held himself in no way responsible for this state of affairs. To be honest, the virtuous Woody gets up my nose. Even when his PC instincts mislead him badly, he emerges justified — rather like the Teflon-coated Lorraine in *EastEnders*. Will Woody discover a fatal flaw in the closing episode next week — a knot in the pine, at last?

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (86759)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (74827)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (5983846)
9.20 Style Challenge (4230223)
9.45 Kilroy (T) (4910488)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (26117)
11.00 News (T); regional news and weather (6936285)
11.05 The Really Useful Show (7548914)
11.35 Change That (8123846)
12.00 News (T) and weather (7080914)
12.05pm The Alphabet Game (5021117)
12.30 Going for a Song (6391285)
12.55 The Weather Show (79462049)
1.00 News (T) and weather (77914)
1.30 Regional News (83132594)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (11429001)
2.05 Quincy (5861001)
2.50 As Time Goes By (r) (T) (5755952)
3.20 Noble Castles Raglan. Followed by Shapes Of The Invisible (1305371)
3.30 Playdays (5981730) **3.50** Wham! Bam! Strawberry Jam! (6347107) **4.05** Casper Classics (9666223) **4.10** Rugrats (1980020) **4.35** The Really Wild Show (T) (5935407) **5.00** Newsround (T) (3295310) **5.10** Grange Hill (T) (4412551)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (714643)
6.00 News (T) and weather (223)
6.30 Newsroom South East (575)
7.00 Watchdog (T) (7662)
7.30 EastEnders Blanca hears some shocking gossip about husband-to-be Ricky. Huw and Lenny's party is brought to an abrupt end (T) (759)
8.00 **Animal Hospital** New series. Rolf Harris and the team go behind the scenes at Harripden Veterinary Hospital, Aylesbury (T) (6310)
8.30 A Perfect State Faithful Whitehall man Simon carries out his orders to the letter and pleads with the new independent state's one and only judge — with unexpected results (T) (2117)
9.00 News (T); regional news and weather (5049)
9.30 Men Behaving Badly: Babies Tony sneaks into Deborah's flat while she's out, and causes chaos. Meanwhile, Dorothy tells Gary she wants to start a family (r) (T) (57575)
10.00 Chalk A sixth-form pupil gives birth, prompting Eric Slatt to deny any involvement with the girl. Comedy with David Bamber (T) (18198)
10.30 Question Time The Defence Secretary Michael Portillo, the Liberal Democrat peer Baroness Williams, the deputy editor of the *Spectator*, Anne McElvoy, and the Shadow Transport Secretary Andrew Smith join David Dimbleby to address issues raised by members of the studio audience in London (81440)
11.30 Sarah, Plain and Tall (1991) starring Glenn Close, Christopher Walken and Lexi Randall. Sentimental drama, set in the early part of the century, about a kindly schoolteacher from Maine who travels to Kansas to help a widowed farmer to raise his family. Directed by Glenn Jordon (T) (885136)
1.05am Weather (3083841)

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BBC2

6.00am Open University: The Sunbaskers (79198416) **6.25** *A Winter Sleep* (7921681) **6.50** Breathing Deeply (9753310) **7.15** News (7825001) **7.30** Wacky Races (r) (8686643) **7.55** Blue Peter (r) (T) (3066117) **8.20** *Wishing* (r) (7455594) **8.35** The Record (5642001) **9.00** The Science Collection (4218001) **9.25** Job Bank (7537117) **9.40** Megamaths (4385469) **10.00** Playdays (69407) **10.30** Storytime (7798204) **10.45** The Experimenter (2094952) **11.05** Space Ark (6957778) **11.15** In Living Memory (9909223) **11.35** Landmarks (8130136) **11.55** Techno (9747117) **12.15pm** Quinze Minutes Plus (5183001) **12.30** Working Lunch (68681) **1.00** Liteschool (35037335) **1.25** Isabel (47241310) **1.45** Numbertime (83119643) **2.00** Wishing (36741372) **2.10** Everyone's Got One (2900865) **3.00** News (T) **3.05** Westminster (4642020) **3.55** News (T) **4.00** Today's the Day (488) **4.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (372) **5.00** Esther (T) (5440)
5.30 World Figure Skating Championships The original set pattern ice dance (952)
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (T) (582778)
6.45 Quantum Leap (r) (T) (707310)
7.30 First Sight: Living Longer, Caring Less What happened to the concept of care in the community in the South East (371) **WALES:** Local Heroes **EAST:** Matter of Fact **MIDLANDS:** Midlands Report **NORTH/NORTH EAST/NORTH WEST/SOUTH WEST/WEST:** Close Up **SOUTH:** Southern Eye
8.00 **Local Heroes Science Special** Celebrating the anniversaries of inventions that become part of our everyday lives (4952)
8.30 Top Gear Quentin Wilson goes for a ride in the Mercedes 600 stretch limousine which once belonged to John Lennon, and Tony Mason test-drives the new Subaru Legacy (T) (5989)
9.00 Third Rock from the Sun Harry gets depressed because he feels he has no identity or purpose (T) (951914)



Sir Frank Whittle (9.25pm)

9.25 **Horizon: Genius of the Jet** The story of the jet engine and its inventor (T) (958759)
10.15 Travel Show Essential Guide Pauline Quirke and her husband on honeymoon in the palaces of northern India (330827)
10.28 Shapes of the Invisible (862001)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (972533)
11.15 World Figure Skating Championships The men's free programme (310681)
12.00 The Midnight Hour (40711)
12.30am Learning Zone: Open University Playing Safe (94044) **1.00** Redeveloping New York and Los Angeles (57452) **2.00** Communications and the Media (84976) **4.00** Sueños: Spanish (44518) **5.00** *The Small Business Programme*

CHOICE

Animal Hospital
BBC1, 8.00pm

Rolf Harris continues to prove that it is possible to work with animals and not be upstaged as the show which regularly attracts 11 million viewers moves to the Hampden Veterinary Hospital in Aylesbury. This is the first time *Animal Hospital* has come from a country practice and while there will be the usual focus on the ailments of household pets, we shall also follow the hospital's team of farm and horse vets. For those with fond memories of *All Creatures Great and Small*, here is a taste of a real-life equivalent. As always, much of the impact will come from the sudden, unexpected dramas. But we are also promised more predictable stories, such as lambing and calving, checking the health of exotic birds, treating dogs with cancer, and, wait for it, puppy socialisation classes.

Local Heroes
BBC2, 8.00pm

When Adam Hart-Davis rode off at the end of his last series we thought that was the last we would hear for a while from the ebullient celebrant of daft, and sometimes not-so-daft, inventions. But Science Week has brought him back, for a one-off on bright ideas which have their anniversary during this very week. Talking of March anniversaries, Hart-Davis could be marking the death of Newton or the birth of Einstein. But he quickly brushes them aside in favour of a dentist from Harrogate who, 100 years ago, patented an automatic egg-timer. Thanks to our resourceful host, Dr Thomas Gaddas's machine lives again. Such trivia are mixed with weightier matters such as the discovery of Uranus and Edward Muybridge's pioneering demonstration of motion pictures.

Original Sin
ITV, 9.00pm

The mournful strains of what must be called the P. D. James theme herald the latest in a series of polished adaptations from the mistress of the thinking person's whodunnit. *Original Sin* has all the expected pleasures: murder in a closed world, this time of a publishing house, a plot which has the ingenuity of Agatha Christie but with believable characters, and a hand-picked cast headed by Roy Marsden as the laconic, poet-policeman Adam Dalgliesh. It is a poison-pen letter which first brings Dalgliesh to the mock-Venetian headquarters of the Peverell Press on the banks of the Thames but his investigation takes a darker turn when a senior editor is found dead from an overdose. Ian Bannen plays the senior partner and James Wilby the brash new managing director who had sacked the dead woman.

Horizon: Genius of the Jet
BBC2, 9.25pm

The story of Sir Frank Whittle and the jet engine says it all about great British inventions which were exploited by others and great British inventors insufficiently recognised in their own country. It is true that Whittle was knighted, and, very late in his life, awarded the Order of Merit, but he remained a figure more applauded in America (where he went to live) than he was here. Having pioneered the turbo jet which was to change the face of air travel, he saw his company marginalised and his career effectively over by the age of 41. Nicholas Jones's profile has the advantage of an interview, not previously shown, which Whittle gave in his old age. Surprisingly, perhaps, he is not bitter but he does reveal that the constant battles against bureaucracy and lack of funds led to a series of breakdowns.

Peter Waymark

HTV

6.00am GMTV (6387662)
9.25 Chain Letters (T) (4215914)
9.55 Regional News (T) (5007001)
10.00 The Time, the Place (56933)
10.30 This Morning (80446010)
12.20pm Regional News (T) (7086198)
12.30 News (T) and weather (6319681)
12.54 HTV Crimestoppers (79458846) **12.55** Shortland Street (6394372) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (47236488) **1.50** Afternoon Live (11434933) **2.20** Vanessa (T) (56486440) **2.50** Afternoon Live (5740020)
3.20 News (T) (3200907)
3.25 Regional News (T) (4650448)
3.30 The Riddlers (2460597) **3.40** Wizadora (r) (9443730) **3.50** Cartoon Time (6348827) **3.55** Rupert (r) (5986285) **4.20** Mike and Angelo (1971372) **4.45** Reboot II (r) (T) (5928759)
5.10 A Country Practice (5164575)
5.40 News (T) and weather (997049)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (731846)
6.25 HTV Weather (617827)
6.30 HTV News (T) (643)
7.00 Emmerdale Biff enjoys a taste of the high life with Steve (T) (2730)
7.30 3-D Julia Somerville introduces a profile of the world renowned car spy photographer Bernd Rauh (T) (827)
8.00 The Bill Deakin and Skase investigate a fire and discover a grieving mother has inadvertently triggered a deadly series of events (T) (8778)
8.30 Michael Barrymore's Strike It Rich Game show (T) (7285)



Roy Marsden as Dalgliesh (9.00pm)

9.00 **PD James: Original Sin** Roy Marsden returns in a new three-part murder mystery as detective-cum-poet Adam Dalgliesh (T) (7759)
10.00 News (T) and weather (38594)
10.30 Regional News (T) (476681)
10.40 The West This Week (829594)
11.30 Frieze Frame (324049)
11.45 The European Match Highlights Bob Wilson introduces highlights from tonight's quarter-final, second-leg tie between Liverpool and SK Brann Bergen at Anfield (486827)
12.15am Rugby World Cup Sevens Preview Jim Rosenthal reports from Hong Kong, as he looks forward to three days of rugby (129228)
1.15 In Bed with MeDinner (21228)
1.45 Funny Business (8319792)
2.10 Cyber Cafe (5672353)
2.40 Stand and Deliver (r) (4461112)
3.40 The Good Sex Guide Late (r) (9402686)
4.30 The Time, the Place (r) (T) (56727)
5.00 Garden Calendar (r) (T) (45841)
5.30 News (45266)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (6394372)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5164575)
6.25 Central News (749865)
6.55-7.00 Lifeline (695865)
10.40 The European Match (994136)
11.10 Do I Not Like That! (512952)
12.10am Rugby World Cup Sevens Preview (6678605)
1.15 Funny Business (3952773)
1.50 Ed's Night Party (8316605)
2.15 Club Nation (4738334)
3.10 Access All Areas (65403334)
3.40 Central Jobfinder '97 (675247)
5.20 Asian Eye (8996247)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (7086198)
12.55-1.25 The Lost Gardens of Heligan (6394372)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5164575)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (47198)
10.40 The European Match (994136)
11.10 Rugby World Cup Sevens Preview (512952)
12.10am Traps (6678605)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
5.10pm-5.40 Home and Away (5164575)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (391)
6.30-7.00 Grass Roots (643)
10.40-11.40 Meridian Audit (534914)
11.40 The European Match (469681)
5.00am Freescreen (45841)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (6394372)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5164575)
6.25 Anglia News (749865)
6.55-7.00 What's On (695865)
10.40 Cover Story (994136)
11.10 The European Match (831594)
11.40 Crime Special Update (469681)

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (79469)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (90865)
9.00 Bewitched (13643)
9.30 Ysgolion (490933)
12.00pm House to House (33407)
12.30 Ellen (60049)
1.00 Slot Meithrin (93952)
1.30 Collector's Lot (52020)
2.00 Racing from Doncaster (7372)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (556)
4.30 An Inspector Calls (440)
5.00 5 Pump (9376)
5.30 Countdown (420)
6.00 Newyddion 6 (355575)
6.05 Heno (742952)
6.35 Jacpot (624117)
7.00 Pobol y Cwm (852223)
7.25 Pwy 'Di Pwy? (110020)
8.00 Pam Fi Duw? (9020)
8.30 Newyddion (5827)
9.00 Family Money (8001)
10.00 Film: The Handmaid's Tale (2339)
12.00am Dispatches (8862889)
12.45 Witness (119841)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (79469) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (90865) **9.00** Bewitched (r) (T) (13643)
9.30 Schools (T) Middle English Personal Non-Fiction: Travel Writing, the chronicles of two young people on an outdoors adventure holiday (T) **9.45** Understanding Northern Ireland **10.05** Scientific Eye: Acids and Alkalis (T) **10.25** Geographical Eye Over Asia (T) **10.45** Worlds of Faith **11.00** History of Action **11.20** Ri Ra (T) **11.40** German Programme (490933)
12.00 House to House (33407) **12.30pm** Baby It's You (5/6) (r) (T) (60049) **1.00** Ellen (T) (93952) **1.30** Australia Wild (52020)
2.00 Racing from Doncaster Lesley Graham introduces live coverage of the **2.05, 2.35, 3.10** and **3.40** races (7372)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (556) **4.30** Countdown (T) (440) **5.00** Ricki Lake (T) (9376) **5.30** Pet Rescue (T) (420)
6.00 Hangin' with Mr Cooper (T) (933)
6.30 Hollyoaks Teen soap (T) (285)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (586914)
7.50 Black Holes of Science Why, 100 years after the discovery of electrons, do we still not understand what they are? (544952)
8.00 Shop Till You Drop The last in the series investigates the future of supermarket shopping (T) (9020)
8.30 A Cook on the Wild Side Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall arrives at the Severn Estuary in time for the elver migration (2/4) (T) (5827)
9.00 Dispatches Revealing the depth of racism and discrimination against black soldiers that exists in the British Army (T) (933440)
9.45 Bright Sparks Dominic Osbourne's film about the life of the British stock car champion, Mark Chipling (T) (370285)



Matt Dillon makes a point (10.00pm)

10.00 The Outsiders (1983) with Matt Dillon, Ralph Macchio, C. Thomas Howell, Patrick Swayze, Rob Lowe, Emilio Estevez and Tom Cruise. Set in 1960s America, a group of young people from the wrong sides of the tracks in Tulsa battle with local students, with tragic results. Directed by Francis Coppola (T) (652575)
11.40 The Unpleasant World of Penn and Teller The guest is Alexei Sayle (r) (T) (467223)
12.15am The Last Tycoon (1976) with Robert De Niro, Tony Curtis, Jeanne Moreau and Jack Nicholson. Director Elia Kazan's version of F. Scott Fitzgerald's unfinished Hollywood novel (14477131)
2.35 Loving (1970) with George Segal and Eva Marie Saint. A comedy drama about a commercial artist being torn between his wife and mistress. Directed by Irvin Kershner (751570)
4.10 Schools (1019082)
5.30 Backdate Quiz (r) (T) (43808). Ends at **6.00**

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (806865) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee (49730) **10.00** Another World (31136) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (13372) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (94020) **1.00pm** Geraldo (70440) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (77440) **3.00** Jenny Jones (10594) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (99001) **5.00** Star Trek: Next Generation (1407) **6.00** Real TV (4469) **6.30** Married with Children (8049) **7.00** Simpsons (2136) **7.30** M*A*S*H (7933) **8.00** Third Rock from the Sun (8556) **8.30** The Nanny (7961) **9.00** Seinfeld (95285) **9.30** Mad About You (32109) **10.00** Chicago Hope (32204) **11.00** Selina Scott Tonight (90730) **11.30** Star Trek: Next Generation (20865) **12.30am** LAPD (34696) **1.00** Hit Mix (1668353)

SKY 2

7.00pm Hercules. The Legendary Journeys (6690285) **8.00** Sliders (6609533) **9.00** Highlander (6696469) **10.00** Tek War (6698556) **11.00** Late Show (6220759) **12.00** Hit Mix Long Play (9193699)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am A Flea In Her Ear (1968) (70846) **8.00 Spenser: Judas Goat** (1994) (91020) **10.00 The Hudsucker Proxy** (1994) (86001) **12.00 Story Book** (1994) (16914) **1.30pm The Man in the Brown Suit** (1989) (25558) **3.00 Running Brave** (1983) (24681) **5.00 The Hudsucker Proxy** (1994) (61204) **7.00 US Top 10** (7204) **7.30 Baby's Day Out** (1994) (97198) **9.00 Clueless** (1995) (41771575) **10.40 Movie Show** (532310) **11.10 The Shawshank Conspiracy** (1995) (4526662) **12.45am Clueless** (1995) (7581555) **2.20 Prêt-a-Porter** (1994) (38279112) **4.30 Spenser: Judas Goat** (1994) (75402)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00pm Whoa Willie Comes Marching Home (1950) (72049) **7.30 David and the Magic Pearl** (1985) (8401391) **8.45 Seventh Heaven** (1937) (81833790) **10.20 Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter?** (1957) (94284020) **12.00 Along Came Jones** (1945) (89385) **2.00pm Spencer's Mountain** (1963) (21198) **4.00 Transformers: The Movie** (1986) (7681) **6.00 Derby** (1985) (34862) **8.00 A Good Man in Africa** (1994) (46407) **10.00 Miami Rhapsody** (1995) (2834691) **11.40 Red Shoe Diaries: The Game** (1995) (8542851) **1.00am Jimmy Hollywood** (1994) (581792) **2.50 Severed Ties** (1992) (310247) **4.25 Along Came Jones** (1945) (438063)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm Funny Girl (1968) (8151778) **8.30 Smokey and the Bandit III** (1983) (3997001) **10.00 No Mercy** (1986) (1225730) **11.55 School Daze** (1988) (5859223) **1.55am Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde** (1931) (8594286) **3.35-5.55 One-Eyed Jacks** (1961) (56906711)

TNT

9.00pm Heart of Darkness (1994) (92788285) **11.00 Grand Hotel** (1932) (81082933) **1.00 The Formula** (1980) (81040957) **3.00-5.00 The Adventures of Tartu** (1943) (39024537)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (61391) **7.30** Wrestling (97372) **8.30** Racing News (81681) **9.00** Sports Centre (72993) **9.30** Aerobics (18223) **10.00** Grass Roots Rugby (21285) **10.30** Live Golf (88136) **12.30pm** World of Super League (78759) **2.30** Futbol Mundial (1914) **3.00** Live Golf (51759) **5.00** Wrestling (9681) **6.00** Sports Centre (2643) **6.30** Netbusters (6223) **7.00** Schoolboy Football (58827) **8.59** Sports Centre (877488) **9.00** Trans World Sport (93339) **10.00** Sports Centre (60198) **10.30** Tight Lines (334401) **11.30** Trans World Sport (75339) **12.30am** Sports Centre (72860) **1.00** Golf (87686) **2.30-3.00** *Sports Centre* (58137)

SKY SPORTS 2

8.00pm Tight Lines (4386117) **9.00** Football League Review (4399681) **10.00** Spanish Football (4389440) **11.00** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook (8176914) **12.30am-1.00** Second Innings (6876222)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Aerobics (54199759) **12.30pm** Beach Volleyball (28750648) **1.30** Iron Woman (58210001) **2.00** Waterski Tour (70363558) **2.30** Inside the PGA Tour (83419778) **3.00** Sports Unlimited (32915778) **4.00** Beach Volleyball (32994285) **5.00** World of Super League (54103952) **7.00** Sports Centre (70387372) **7.30** European PGA Golf (40368420) **9.00** Live US Golf Bay Hill (92790643) **11.00-11.30** Snowboard Show (32995914)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Motors Magazine (82440) **8.30** Figure Skating (16756) **10.30** Speed Skating World Juniors (13407) **11.30** Rugby World Cup Sevens (40381) **12.30pm** Snowboarding (14407) **1.00** Live Figure Skating (7314575) **4.30** Aerobics (48312) **5.30** Live Figure Skating (85348654) **9.30** European Cup Winner's Cup Quarter Finals (18466) **11.30** Ice Magazine (45865) **12.00-12.30am** Slam Magazine (13605)

UK GOLD

7.00am Tellystack (65740011) **7.35** Neighbours (83396581) **8.00** Care Bears (10015566) **8.25** EastEnders (83723488) **9.00** The Bill (28174480) **9.30** Bread (2660575) **10.00** Nowhere to Run (42571736) **10.30** Sullivans (28469570) **11.00** Juliet Bravo (81725994) **12.00** Crossroads (29370048) **12.30pm** Neighbours (26643991) **1.00** EastEnders (25279067) **1.35** No Place Like Home (34882234) **2.10** Emmerdale (28679070) **2.20** Three Up, Two Down (74152304) **2.55** Allo Allo! (67181988) **3.30** The Bill (82248827) **4.00** All Creatures Great and Small (53771177) **5.00** Coronation Street (56352117) **6.05** EastEnders (58866890) **6.40** Are You Being Served? (34667778) **7.20** Russ Abbot (73571364) **7.50** Bullseye (68567758) **8.20** In Sickness and in Health (55693072) **9.00** The Bill (54656011) **9.30** The Equalizer (96711662) **10.30** Bottom (37475541) **11.10** The Young Ones (65739664) **11.50** Alexei Sayle (37182310) **12.25am** The Best of TOTP (80581150) **1.10** Mutta Vice (76715518) **2.00** Shopping (38986441)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Krypton Factor (20146052) **6.30** Once Upon a Time (99377001) **6.45** Our Backyard (15690136) **7.00** Alphabet Zoo (41094690) **7.15** Once Upon a Time (56159933) **7.30** Return of the Antelope (65876627) **8.00** Classic Coronation Street (47640049) **8.30** Families (47560020) **9.00** The Professionals (26141410) **10.00** Second Thoughts (78697959) **10.30** Two's Company (47145556) **11.00** Within These Walls (65763101) **12.00** Classic Coronation Street (47671382) **12.30pm** Families (76395556) **1.00** Albion Market (65541198) **1.30** Good Life Guide (76388227) **2.00** Drummonds (78604888) **3.00** Upstairs Downstairs (16556621) **4.00** Doctor Series (68950200) **4.30** Second Thoughts (68912004) **5.00** The Professionals (69172846) **6.00** Families (68894696) **6.30** Classic Coronation Street (68030499) **7.00** Doctor Series (69735754) **7.30** Two's Company (68829933) **8.00** Upstairs Downstairs (73703420) **9.00** Classic Coronation Street (70639081) **9.30** The Comedians (70407004) **10.00-11.00** The Professionals (70715274)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Mouse Trucks (99479453) **6.25** Quack Attack (46790488) **6.50** Bonkers (70956062) **7.15** Little Mermaid (15160049) **7.40** Aladdin (29425758) **8.05** Good Troop (58965575) **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa (15415531) **8.40** Care Bears (14864007) **9.10** Goundling Manor (27056484) **9.40** Big Garage (85813126) **9.55** Lamb Chop (97936474) **10.25** Mighty Ducks (58546433) **10.50** Darkwing Duck (17887300) **11.20** Mouse Trucks (33328654) **11.50** Pooh Corner (12178994) **12.20pm** Timon and Pumbaa (97676021) **1.00** Darkwing Duck (14863136) **1.50** Aladdin (16504786) **2.10** Darkwing Duck (43633418) **2.35** Bonkers (56848277) **3.00** Quack Attack (94839071) **3.25** Timon and Pumbaa (46378488) **3.35** Good Troop (56103911) **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa (47316431) **4.10** Good Troop (90678461) **4.35** Bonkers (56731171) **5.00** Aladdin (30861691) **5.25** Timon and Pumbaa (81789141) **5.35** Darkwing Duck (61593311) **6.00** Bone Chillers (22365) **6.30** Boy Meets World (69651) **7.00** Brotherly Love (60502) **7.30 FILM: Taking Liberty** (54653407) **9.10** Tarzan (93364311) **9.30-10.00** Golden Girls (32827)

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am *Three Little Ghosts* (50685775) **6.30** Inspector Gadget (72692231) **7.00** Samurai Pizza Cats (63443391) **7.30** Power Rangers (62298461) **8.00** Masked Rider (72014881) **8.30** Crocadoo (72007591) **9.00** Rimba's Island (54853101) **9.25** Why Why Family (72981310) **9.30** Zoobilee Zoo (36581981) **9.55** Why Why Family (79328448) **10.00** Rimba's Island (14107651) **10.25** Why Why Family (58171171) **10.30** Zoobilee Zoo (93541198) **10.55** Why Why Family (92693662) **11.00** Princess Starla (52762914) **11.30** Pinocchio (27536431) **12.00** Billy the Cat (72047575) **12.30pm** VR Troopers (29764049) **12.50** Power Rangers (29744285) **1.10** Masked Rider (25340865) **1.30** Ace Ventura (80662004) **2.00** Casper (43581177) **2.30** Life with Louie (62534481) **3.00** Eek-Stravaganza (43689852) **3.30** Ace Ventura (12039443) **4.00** Casper (50532401) **4.30** Power Rangers (83580892) **5.00** Masked Rider (43474669) **5.30** Spiderman (26534841) **6.00** Goosebumps (58039907) **6.30-7.00** Sweet Valley High (11088399)

TCC

6.00am Anne of Green Gables/Road to Avonlea (29653) **7.00** Dennis the Menace (73759) **7.30** Dennis the Menace (85594) **8.00** Batman (28138) **8.30** An Attack (27407) **9.00** Flash Gordon (18759) **9.30** Bobby's World (54049) **10.00** Romuald the Reindeer (59681) **10.30** Robinson Sucroe (38353) **11.00** Danger Mouse (99049) **11.30** Gravedale High (80778) **12.00** Oscar's Orchestra (21223) **12.30pm** Halfway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (58865) **1.00** By the Way of the Stars (65730) **1.30** Black Beauty (57136) **2.00** Girl from Tomorrow (2310) **2.30** Ocean Odyssey (7730) **3.00** An Attack (8117) **3.30** Flash Gordon (3575) **4.00** Batman (1310) **4.30-5.00** The Big Dish (7594)

CARTOON NETWORK

Non-stop cartoons from **5.00am** to **9.00pm**. Includes Tom and Jerry, Popeye and The Flintstones

NICKELODEON

6.00am Killer Tomatoes (38056) **6.30** Count Duckula (38575) **7.00** Rocko (9456952) **7.15** Hey Arnold! (6561204) **7.30** Rugrats (48440) **8.00** Doug (80952) **8.30** Arthur (89223) **9.00** Children's BBC (70575) **10.00** Wrinkle's House (29827) **10.30** Babar (76759) **11.00** Magic School Bus (44575) **11.30** Henry's Cat/Wil Cwac Cwac/Lizzie's Library/Topsey and Tim/Jumbo (45204) **12.00** Bananas in Pyjamas (90339) **12.30pm** Little Bear Stories (10681) **1.00** Children's BBC (68204) **2.00** Dr Seuss (4136) **2.30** Kissyfur (9556) **3.00** Wishbone (3643) **3.30** Stickin' Around (4001) **4.00** Bruno (3136) **4.30** Rugrats (2020) **5.00** Sister Sister (5488) **5.30** Moesha (3372) **6.00** Press Gang (3335) **6.30-7.00** Doug

TROUBLE

12.00 Heartbreak High (2678584) **1.00pm** Madison (8176778) **1.30** Sweet Valley High (2658730) **2.00** Hangtime (4148339) **2.30** California Dreams (8247778) **3.00** Byker Grove (4127846) **3.30** 9-2-5 (8242223) **4.00** Sweet Valley High (8221730) **4.30** Hangtime (8227914) **5.00** Saved by the Bell (4122391) **5.30** California Dreams (8241594) **6.00** Byker Grove (8248407) **6.30** Madison (8239759) **7.00-8.00** Heartbreak High (3414020)

BRAVO

8.00pm Robocop (3490440) **9.00** Burning Zone (3410204) **10.00** Tour of Duty (3413391) **11.00 FILM: The Fourth Man** (6826136) **1.00pm** Burning Zone (2688088) **2.00** Tour of Duty (5582537) **3.00 FILM: A Night in the Life of Jimmy Reardon** (2659841) **5.00** Robocop (7162905)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm E UK (8952) **7.30** Roseanne (3579) **8.00** Roseanne (4372) **8.30** Monty Python (3407) **9.00** Cheers (84339) **9.30** Taxi (10907) **10.00** Garry Shandling (51440) **10.30** Frasier (77488) **11.00** The Doctor Is On (36556) **11.30** Monty Python (58339) **12.00** Nurses (28179) **12.30am** Soap (70402) **1.00** Cheers (43518) **1.30** Taxi (82995) **2.00** E Uk (11082) **2.30** The Doctor Is On (58119) **3.00** Frasier (58062) **3.30-4.00** Garry Shandling (81841)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

1.00am The Twilight Zone (1813537) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (3936247) **2.00** 100 Years of Horror (5968191) **2.30** Rod Serling's Night Gallery (6213088) **3.00-4.00** Friday the 13th (2446088)

TLC

9.00am The Joy of Painting (2848310) **9.30** Grow with Joe (2688117) **10.00** Two's Country Cooking (4225778) **10.30** Our House (2844594) **11.00** Fix It (5384407) **11.30** This Old House (5385136) **12.00** Yan Can Cook (2835846) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (2682933) **1.00** Today's Gourmet (8174952) **1.30** Home Again (2661204) **2.00** Hometime (4111285) **2.30** Furniture to Go (8243952) **3.00** Two's Country (4123020) **3.30-4.00** This Old House

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt (8234204) **4.30** Australia Wild (8230488) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (4135865) **5.30** Beyond 2000 (8214440) **6.00** Wild Things (2670852) **7.00** Invention (4115001) **7.30** Wonders of Weather (8231117) **8.00** The Professionals (3403914) **9.00** Top Marques 2 (5364843) **9.30** Disaster (2658469) **10.00** Medical Det



GOLF 50
Ballesteros given renewed hope for Ryder Cup reform

SPORT

ATHLETICS 53
The runner who refused to beat a retreat



THURSDAY MARCH 20 1997

Evans's team has point to prove

Liverpool must realise their true potential

By David Miller

LIVERPOOL and their manager, Roy Evans, have a tough act to follow, an era of almost 30 years in which the successive teams of Shankly, Paisley, Fagan — briefly — and Dalglish commanded the domestic and European football stage. Tonight and the next six weeks will show what Evans's Liverpool are made of.

The second leg of the Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final against SK Brann, of Bergen, ought to be no problem. Neither, of course, should Nottingham Forest have been in the FA Carling Premiership five days ago. Evans's Liverpool continue to hover between being outstanding and merely full of potential. Winning trophies requires potential to be realised.

Any great team is usually slightly in awe of the manager: his personality, his playing record, his tactical acumen as coach. I have the impression that Evans, as nice a man as one could meet, does not frighten his players quite enough.

Kjell Tennfjord, the Brann coach, overestimates the relative strengths of Norwegian and English football when he claims that there is "not much difference between the top of the Norwegian league and the top of the Premiership". That is psychological warfare on behalf of his team in the Shankly mould, but it is exaggerated.

Brann are defensive, exceedingly quick on the counter-attack and, in Tore Andre Flo, have a central striker capable of troubling any defence, not least Liverpool's. They are, however, primarily a physical side without exceptional technique, cleverly exploiting the long ball. Disciplined opposition, armed with the advantage of a 1-1 first-leg draw away from home as are Liverpool, would swallow Brann at Anfield. Liverpool teams of the past would have done so. Will the present side?

Nigel Clough has returned to Manchester City after a three-month loan spell with Nottingham Forest. The struggling Premiership club decided not to sign Clough permanently after acquiring Pierre van Hooijdonk and Ian Moore for a total of £5.5 million last week.

As in Bergen, Collymore, a substitute against Forest, will not play, Evans preferring once again to have Berger, the rangy Czech forward, tucked in behind Fowler. Besides more accuracy in his shooting from Berger, Liverpool will be looking for another goal such as Fowler scored so marvellously in Norway.

Yet the key to Liverpool's passage into the semi-finals will lie as much with the authority of their defence and midfield. But for a performance of real authority by the veteran Barnes, who was always available up and down the length of the field to come to the assistance of colleagues, Liverpool would not have played their way so easily out of trouble in Bergen. Tonight it will need a mature performance from young Redknapp, reliability from McAteer in his defensive qualities as a wing back and economy of possession by the roving McManaman.

McAteer has recovered from a head wound, sustained against Forest, which required nine stitches, and will probably have to play in a bandage, though Evans said yesterday that there seemed no risk in playing him. "It would be pointless going out to play for a goalless draw just because we have an away goal," Evans said. "That would be suicidal. We must try and win, but at the same time we must defend and avoid giving away silly goals.

"Brann have proved to us what an accomplished side they are, and caused us many problems, so that we have to be right on the night now. We can take nothing for granted because there are no easy games in Europe these days."

That last comment may be a cliché, but it is all too true. The attraction of this tie against Norwegian opposition, which 20 years ago might have seen Anfield no more than two-thirds full, has produced a sell-out, the way it has been for every home match in the tournament so far.

With Wright recovered to resume a place in the back three, Ruddock, who was often in trouble against Flo in the first leg, is likely to be omitted, with Harkness the likely replacement for the ineligible Kvarme. Ruddock's exclusion might be no bad thing after his exchange of words with one or two of the Norwegians.

Brann will be bringing over 2,000 supporters with them. The only doubt about their team is Flo's striking partner, Mons Ivar Mjelde, their leading scorer in the tournament, who has a knee injury. Tennfjord unwisely waited until the second half before introducing Mjelde in Bergen, allegedly because he had been troubled by a chest infection. An effective combination of these two forwards and any uncertainty by Liverpool could see them suffer the same indignity as last season, when they were ejected from the Uefa Cup by Brondby.

Newcastle inquest, page 52
Day of reckoning, page 53



ADRIAN SHERRATT

Loughborough's Stuart Moffat beats the Brunel cover to score the only try of the British Universities final at Twickenham. Brunel won 9-8. Report, page 50

Geoghegan makes striking impression

By Our Sports Staff

MICK McCARTHY, facing a shortage of strikers before Ireland's World Cup qualifying group eight tie against Macedonia in Skopje next month, sprang a surprise yesterday when he turned to Stephen Geoghegan to solve the problem. Geoghegan, the part-time Shelbourne striker, thus became the first League of Ireland player to be picked for a competitive Ireland international since 1985.

McCarthy, the Ireland manager, had no hesitation including Geoghegan in his final selection, especially with Niall Quinn, of Sunderland, David Connolly, of Watford, and Keith O'Neill, of Norwich City, all ruled out by injuries. The 26-year-old has impressed in representative games playing for the league and an Ireland B side earlier this month.

"The lad is there on merit," McCarthy said yesterday. "He fully deserves his inclusion. Stephen is capable of holding the ball up and can score goals."

For his part, Geoghegan believed his call-up for the game on April 2 could mark a breakthrough for footballers in Ireland. "This is a great boost for myself, Shelbourne and the League of Ireland," he said. "Hopefully, it is only the tip of the iceberg, as I know there are a lot of players here knocking on the international door. For me, this has come right out of the blue. I am thrilled by the honour."

Geoghegan was previously included in an Ireland squad back in April 1994 for the 1-0 victory over Holland in a friendly in Tilburg, but he stayed on the bench. He is likely to be a substitute on this occasion, too, with Jon Goodman, of Wimbledon, who made his debut in the scoreless draw with Wales in Cardiff, has the chance to extend his record haul of caps to 84, there is again no room for the Leeds United defender, Gary Kelly.

McCarthy, who saw Macedonia lose 1-0 to Australia in Skopje earlier this month, said: "That was a dour game. However, I believe we can go out there and try to win. We have the ability to go out and look for a point. Victory would put his in the right mood for the game with Romania in Bucharest later next month."

IRELAND (from): A Kelly (Sheffield United), S Given (Blackburn Rovers), K Cunningham (Wimbledon), J Kenna (Blackburn Rovers), T Phelan (Everton), D Irwin (Manchester United), P McGrath (Derby County), G Breen (Coventry City), I Harte (Leeds United), S Staunton (Aston Villa), J McAteer (Liverpool), R Houghton (Crystal Palace) R Keane (Manchester United), A Townsend (Aston Villa), A McLoughlin (Portsmouth), D Kelly (Sunderland), J Goodman (Wimbledon), A Cascarino (Nancy), A Moore (Middlesbrough), S Geoghegan (Shelbourne).

Hamilton is counting on Dowie

By Our Sports Staff

BRYAN HAMILTON is counting on Iain Dowie to reaffirm his leadership qualities as Northern Ireland prepare for two vital World Cup qualifying matches later this month. The West Ham United forward will play a crucial role in the matches against Portugal, in Belfast on March 29, and in Kiev, against Ukraine, four days later.

Dowie, who scored both goals in Northern Ireland's 2-0 win over Albania in their last group nine qualifying match, returns after missing games against Italy and Belgium because of a broken ankle. The Northern Ireland manager said: "I'm delighted that Iain is ready to come back as we get down to the serious business with these back-to-back qualifiers.

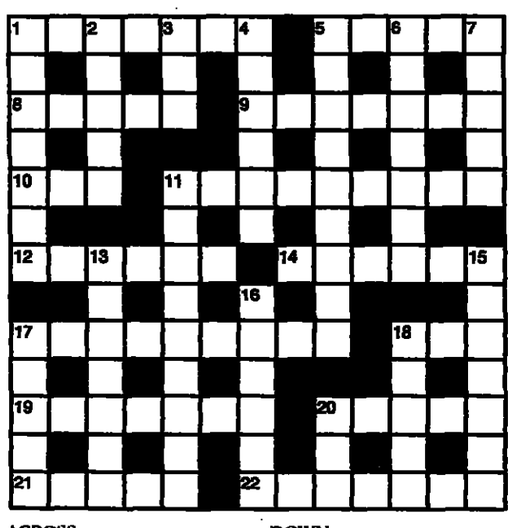
"He always leads by example and is a very important influence on everyone in our squad. He'll also be on his toes because we've seen young strikers perform impressively while he's been off."

Hamilton includes Kevin Horlock, of Manchester City, and Michael Hughes, of West Ham, in the squad, although they will be suspended for the Portugal game. The manager said: "Kevin has become an increasingly influential player and Michael definitely has a match-winning talent. But we've steadily built up a good squad and I am confident those who come in won't let us down."

Hamilton knows he needs victories in both games to keep the World Cup dream alive, but said: "We've put together some good performances and I believe Portugal will be looking at us this time and envisaging a hard game. I honestly think we've the talent to beat them."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1046 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS
1 Free from blame (7)
5 Rugby formation (5)
8 Cavalry unit (5)
9 Claude —, Fr. composer (7)
10 Silent; act in mime (3)
11 Dancer's twirl (9)
12 Suicide bird *(Mikado)* (3-3)
14 Magician (6)
17 Birnam Wood came to it *(Macbeth)* (9)
18 Fasten: (golf) hole marker (3)
19 Insufficient attention (7)
20 Sphere (5)
21 Swell: sudden increase (5)
22 Muslim fast (7)

DOWN
1 Endeavour (7)
2 Great fuss, wind (5)
3 Upper leg; circuit (3)
4 Tolerate (6)
5 Not for discussion outside court (3,6)
6 Egypt town, hieroglyph-key stone (7)
7 Perhaps (5)
11 Special benefit, immunity (9)
13 Department head (7)
15 Deep, dismal cell (7)
16 Divisor; business agent (6)
17 Sand hills (5)
18 Sticking out; arrogant (5)
20 Type of tree; part of mouth (3)

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All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address .....

SOLUTION TO NO 1045

ACROSS: 1 Quantify 5 Stub 9 Afire 10 Illness 11 Go under 12 Sieve 13 Have a ball 18 Ad hoc 20 Revenue 22 Bastion 23 Viola 24 Trek 25 Tendency

DOWN: 1 Quango 2 Azimuth 3 Tread 4 Friar Laurence 6 There 7 Bushel 8 Alaska 14 Victim 15 Lincoln 16 Rabbit 17 Legacy 19 Haste 21 Vivid

Pigott whips up storm at Sussex

Pat Gibson hears the cries of anger and the committee's resignation at the troubled club's annual meeting

SUSSEX, the oldest of England's county cricket clubs, have never seen anything like it in their 158-year history. An hour into their annual meeting the entire committee — or what was left of it — had agreed to resign in the face of the naked fury of their members.

Almost 800 of them, six times as many as normally turn out, had poured into the Empress Suite of the Grand Hotel in Brighton and all but a handful were backing their former fast bowler, Tony Pigott, in his call for change.

Jim May, one of three newly elected committee men who were backing Pigott's campaign, went straight for the jugular by proposing a motion to reject the annual report. "It was not only a poor season," he said, "but the culmination of years of mismanagement."

He was backed by Roger Dakin, a former England hockey player and one of Pigott's supporters, who talked of "basic mistrust and lack of communication not just with the players but the members as well." And almost everyone in the hall waded in with shouts of "resign".

It took a while for the message to sink in. Frank Horan, the club surgeon, who had been shouted down when he referred to the committee's opponents as rabble-rousers, stormed out of the meeting after 45 minutes claiming that he did not believe in mob rule.

Fifteen minutes later, Alan Wadey, the vice-chairman, spoke for the remaining two members of the committee, Ken Hopkins, the chairman, and the former captain, John Barclay, when he said: "There is no doubt that we as a committee have to go. I am prepared to give you an undertaking that we will stand down at the end of the meeting but let us finish the business first."

Only then was the beleaguered Hopkins enabled to press on in an atmosphere which had clearly shocked him and his committee. They had not realised how much the events of the past winter had stirred even these most placid of cricket lovers who usually spend their summer days sprawled blissfully in their deckchairs without a word of complaint.

Six capped players have been allowed to leave the club, including the captain, Alan Wells, who was sacked and subsequently blamed for the shambles, Ed Giddins, the fast bowler, who was dismissed after failing a drugs test, and Ian Salisbury, the England leg spinner, who has defected to Surrey.

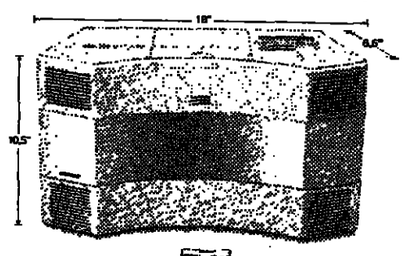
It was all too much for Pigott, who obtained the necessary 50 signatures to force a special meeting, to be held in Hove Town Hall on April 8. That may no longer be necessary.

Pigott's supporters had distributed copies of his manifesto, Sussex 2000, which sets out the situation at the club as he sees it, and his ideas for change.

"We are committed to forward-looking policies to improve communication, finance, development and, most importantly, to bring playing success to the club," the manifesto said. It called for a fresh start and the members were obviously in the same mood.

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